# New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980

August 2001



Community Music School Junior Orchestra conducted by Jeanette Davis (1926)

# Affordable housing for the Mission is unlikely in the next few years

Of \$100 million in bond money, very little went to the neighborhood

by M. Toby Levine

here is little hope that additional affordable housing will be built in the Mission in the next several years, in spite of the fact that in 1996 San Francisco voters approved proposition A, a bond fund of \$100,000,000 for affordable housing. \$85,000,000 was allocated toward the development of rental housing, and another \$15,000,000 for down payment assistance for first-time home buyers.

The actual Prop A program has now been working for three years under the direction of the Mayor's Office of Housing. During the first year of operation (1998-99) the funds, though worthily spent in many needy neighborhoods, no developer applied for funds to build housing in the Mission.

The following year (1999-2000), Friendship House, a Native American organization based in the Mission, received predevelopment funds for an 80-bed complex. Eight Mission residents received down-payment assistance as first time home buyers. This year (2000-2001), one neighborhood family received down-payment assistance and additional funds were made available to Friendship House. Obviously, very little housing has been built in the last four years. Why?

Two nonprofit developers have built the bulk of the housing in the neighborhood: The Housing Development and Neighborhood Preservation Corporation HDNPC) and Mission Housing and Development Corporation (MHDC). The Executive Director of HDNPC, Al Borvice, feels that the development climate in San Francisco has become too difficult because of endless bureaucratic and political roadblocks. Now, it can take anywhere from 4-10 years to bring a new pro ject to completion. HDNPC is not developing new housing in the Mission at this time and has not done so since the opening of 101 Valencia (109 homes for first-time homeowners) in 1997.

MHDC, meanwhile, has had 3 executive directors in the last five years. They are currently working on a 100 unit family project in Mission Bay (their largest thus far), as well as trying to respond to the displacement crisis in the Mission, so their energies have been diverted. Since it takes at least four years to put a new housing project together, and since the only project in the Mission on the drawing boards is Friendship House, the earliest we can expect any new housing, if the land were bought today, would be 2005 and that would be with a very tight timetable.

#### The Private Sector

One might ask: why don't private develop-

ers provide affordable housing? Under the interim zoning controls recently passed by the board of supervisors, private developers who build in the Mission are required to provide 25% of the project as affordable housing. Even without a profit, many developers are convinced 25% is not doable, for the subsidy would have to come from the remaining units making them prohibitively expensive. The only possibility would be a public subsidy on at least 10-15% of the units. Otherwise,

there will be no market rate housing built in the Mission (unless the project is already underway) over the next 12-18' months.

To understand the affordable housing picture in the Mission, a few figures are needed. In the 2000 Census, there are 60,202 Mission residents. The city planning department estimates that 40% of the San Francisco population earns less than

Continued on page 4

# Emergency Coalition sues City over hidden healthcare cuts in the budget

\$30 Million more needed to maintain current level of service

by Joe Donohoe

group of community activists and healthcare workers is taking the City of San Francisco to court for what they maintain are hidden and illegal healthcare cuts in the City budget passed by board of supervisors last month. In a lawsuit filed by the Emergency Coalition to Save Public Health, the Coalition claims allocations for public health are not adequate to sustain the current level of care and will trigger service cuts at some point in the year. The Coalition argues that such cuts will be made administratively and not as part of the public process mandated by state law

The Emergency Coalition, allied with the People's Budget Coalition (an organi-

zation concerned with public health, housing and other services) wanted the Board of Supervisors to veto the city budget forwarded by the Mayor. To this end, on July 16 members of both coalitions packed the Board of Supervisors' chambers to protest the contents of the new budget then up for approval.

There were 13 arrests that day, resulting in growing criticism of the supervisors by activists. Spokespeople stated that they felt the Board was betraying both the people who elected them and their stated progressive platform.

The arrestees and their colleagues found a situation reminiscent of policies and attitudes in effect before the last election, when the Planning Commission drew

Continued on page 6°

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#### To the Egress

First Person

y name is Gilma Cruz and I'm in the process of being evicted from my home. I have lived here for five years, in this house, and in the City since 1987. I work at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, and I'm working with children with asthma.

I used to work at La Raza Centro Legal. It was then I realized how difficult it was for people to find housing here. I worked with families living in basements, not even apartments. In some places the rooms were divided by cloths, and they were being rented at very high prices; they were illegal units. One of the things that I did at La Raza was bring in other services like Seasonal Sharing. They pay the rent of families who are on the verge of becoming homeless.

I did that for the three years I was there, and we helped many families with rental assistance. But then, I never knew that I was going to be in the same situation. It was such a surprise.

The property I live in has two units. These houses have been always been occupied by friends, people who have been in the Salvadoran movement, people who worked in an organization for human rights for Salvadorians. Everyone who lived in the house knew each other, through doing political work. It was like a big family. Then people started to move out: some people moved out of town, some people moved out of the country. In this last year, a lot of people have moved out.

There have been changes on my block; people moving out, and younger, professional people moving in. The only two Latino families left are my next-door neighbors downstairs and us.

Our situation started a year ago when we asked our landlord if he would sell his house to us, and he said no, because we could not afford it. Then, six months ago, he started to say, "You know, in about two months I'm going to try to move back into the apartment." But then he didn't do anything. He would come to our house everyday and ask, "Have you found something?" Two months ago he wrote us a letter telling us to move.

I don't know if he understood the legal process, or if he didn't want to do it legally, because he's not going to move in here. It has been very stressful, these couple of months, because he comes every day. He's older and we respect him a lot, and he's been fixing the downstairs part because the foundation was falling apart.

We always reassured him that yes, this is his property, but for years, we've been fixing and taking care of his house. The conditions are very bad. We have made many repairs. I used to keep a garden. Now he's torn all the plants out. When we fixed the house, we did charge him, we took it out of the rent, but we never



charged him for the labor.

He said he wants to move in because his current rental residence is increasing in rent, and he needs a new location to live. His landlord wants to increase his rent from \$1300 to \$1600, effective June Ist. So it's like we're all in the same boat! You should interview him, too! I told him we'll move if he gives us what we have the right to, \$5,000 or more. I feel bad because, like I say, we had a very good relationship with him all this time. He says that he never raised our rent, and that's true.

We've been looking in Craigslist for a new apartment. The rents are \$2,500, and that's if you want a living room and two rooms. Most families, myself included, cannot afford that. Here we pay, and we have paid for a long time, \$850. We offered him \$300 more, or \$500 more, and he said no.



Gilma Cruz with her daughter Ingrid Photo by Gary Stenger

So the landlord only did the legal move-out payments for my uncle Walter, my daughter, and myself, but not for my husband. He has been living here for more than two years. There are four of us. My uncle has found a place, so the family is separating. It's a loss, and it's a grieving process that we have to go through.

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Į	3. FISHERMAN'S WHARF (SEAFOOD)				
ı	Shrimp, Clam, Garlsc .	11.35	13.65	15.85	
l	4. NOB HILL (CHICKEN)		`		
l	Chichen, Mushrooms, Sun Dried Tomasocs, Ontons	11.75	15.75	17.35	
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J	Ground Beef, Onions, Fresh Tomasoes, Black Olives, Jalaperios	13.45	16.75	18.65	
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	Canadian Bacon, Pincapple	9.95	12.90	14.10	
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	Spinach, Frea Choose, Black Olyon, Pesso, Basil	12.101	.14.75	17.10	
	10. VALENCIA SPECIAL .				
	Artichoke Hearts, San-Drind Tomasons, Garlie, Black Olives, Zucchine,	11.85	13.85	15.85	
	PIZZAS				
	FILLAS .				
	PLAIN CHEESE	7.95	9.95	12:05	
	1 TOPPING '	8.75	.11.15	13.35	
	2 TOPPINGS	9.85	12.35	14.80	
	3 TOPPINGS	10.55	13.55	16.25	
				. 10.47	

#### TOPPINGS

EACH ADDITIONAL TOPPING

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	CHICKEN MARSALA	
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#### Affordable housing

80% of the median income (\$48,000) and would therefore need some form of housing assistance in order to avoid paying more than 1/3 of their income for housing, (the federal government's measure of affordability). A Mission family earns on average 10% less than the city median. So, somewhere between 50% and 60% of the Mission households would need housing assistance. (In the 1990 census, a household was 2.7 persons.)

The latest figures from the planning department indicate that there are approximately 21,610 housing units (6,500 of which are owner occupied) in the Mission and 338,015 units in San Francisco. According to the tax collector's office 45% of those units are under the San Francisco Rent Control Ordinance. Applying the same percentage to the Mission, there are at least 9,725 rent controlled units in the neighborhood.

These units offer a degree of affordability and/or stability for neighborhood residents. In addition, there are at least 2,327 units of subsidized housing in the Mission funded by a variety of sources including the mayor's office of housing, the San Francisco Housing Authority and the redevelopment agency.

This means that approximately 60% or 12,051 of the units of housing in the neighborhood have some degree of affordability. If, in the Mission, we were able to create another 1,036 affordable units (some combination of new rental housing and home ownership opportunities), the neighborhood would be in a good position to weather future speculative storms.

#### An innovative beginning

In the past, the Mission has been fortunate to have a creative and forward thinking group of residents who have worked intensively over the years to create a multitude of housing opportunities for a variety of folk in this neighborhood. Beginning with the founding of the Mission Housing and Development Corporation (MHDC) in 1971 and followed by the foundation of Housing Development Neighborhood Preservation Corporation (HDNPC) in 1979, a remarkable effort has been made to address neighborhood housing needs. because of this the Mission is known for its innovation in housing development.

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3288 21 ST STREET Box #202 SF, CA 94110 PH: 415-695-8702FX: 415-695-2838 E-MAIL vmiller4@mindspring.com

Editor-in-Chief Victor Miller

Advertising Sales
Jane Dixon 826-2320

Layout and Design Victor Navarrete, Alazan Graphics

Additional Ad Design Lex McCloud

Copy Editor Peter Claudius

Photographers v e miller, Gary Stenger

Writers

Victor Miller, Silicon Satan, Alfonso Texidor, Sarah Bardeen, Mike Kushner, Robert Leaver, Library Lady, Joe Donohoe, Sonny Smith, Jane Dixon, Richard Pitt, Joanna Mattson, Ron McGlashan, Maria Baird

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A limited number of subsidized home ownership opportunities have been made available over the years...but not many. The largest home ownership project has been HDNPC's 101 Valencia with 109 units; Habitat for Humanity with 4 units; and a few Mission Housing Development Corporation units built in its early years. There are a limited number of inclusionary units, which provide moderate-income homeownership opportunities within larger condominiums. There have been 21 such units created in the last few years.

#### Air rights

Finding reasonably priced land for new housing has always been a challenge in San Francisco due to the land's cost and scarcity. HDNPC in the late 70's began looking for "air rights" opportunities and found one over the Mission/Bartlett Garage at 21st and Bartlett (which at that time had become a center for drug dealing in the Mission and a constant source of complaints from the neighbors and merchants). After endless negotiations with the Department of Parking and Traffic, and cobbling together funding from a variety of sources, Casa de la Raza, 51 units of family housing with a childcare center, was opened to its residents in 1985.

Following that idea, MHDC built an "air rights" project, Dunleavy Plaza, over the Hoff and 16th Street garage. This development contains 49 units of housing for very low and low income persons, and each unit contains one or two bedrooms, so it is ideal for smaller working families who need good transportation to job sites downtown or elsewhere. The important point is that there are still "air rights" possibilities throughout the Mission and these could be developed.

The tough part, though, is that from the moment of the IDEA until the project is opened, a non-profit developer can expect to spend a minimum of four years and up to ten years to bring the project on line. This is too long!

A holistic approach to human needs, rather than simply providing low-cost housing, will be found in many of the affordable housing developments. This may include, depending on the particular need, child care facilities, tutorial services, employment services, immigrant resources, health promotion, or disabled services, to mention a few.

As a part of this approach, MHDC has made an effort to reach the lowest income folk and those in greatest need. This is the reason that they, as well as HDNPC, have bought several run-down single room occupancy hotels (SROs) to serve persons recovering from health problems and homelessness and now have 226 hotel units that may be the first stable home experienced. folks have some Additionally, the nonprofit Tenderloin Housing Clinic has leased the 240-unit Mission hotel at 16th and South Van Ness.

Building affordable housing is a hands-on, labor-intensive task. It takes time, patience, energy, stamina, focus, good negotiating skills and lots of money. Impediments, excessive bureaucracy, neighborhood nimbyism or lack of support for affordable housing, and turf warfare among housing groups all get in the way of building those needed units.

City government, housing organizations and neighborhood leaders, the planning department, and the residents who need housing or who are facing eviction, all know that the housing system must change in order to become more productive. How can we become instruments of change?



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#### Healthcare cuts Continued from page 1

fire for their handling of protesters and dissenters during the fevered height of the dot-com real estate boom. Now, however, the issue is not living space but well-being.

Nora Roman, a resident nurse at the Woman's Health Center at SF General, was an angry Emergency Coalition member. Roman said that the Board was "only too eager to accommodate 52 corporations who demanded money back from the city for what they claimed were illegally excessive taxes and didn't care when it was the poor and disadvantaged wanting an equitable balancing of the books."

According to the Coalition, only \$10 million of the Mayor's \$77 million increase in the public health budget would go to the maintenance of existing services, while the rest would be funneled into developing new services, building structures and capital purchases. This, the Coalition believes, would short existing services by \$30 million.

Despite the lawsuit and growing anxiety over the quality of health care provided at SF General, Laguna Honda and numerous city clinics, the Board passed the 2001-02 budget on July 23rd without a contest. On that day there were so many sheriff's deputies present that it was difficult to read the captions for the deaf on the video monitors, since the deputies kept on crowding in front of the screens. In fact, there almost seemed to be as many deputies as there were People's Budget and Emergency Coalition people.

#### "This should shake things up"

Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano defended the Supervisors' decision. "I think it's good that the Coalition is suing the City, that they are suing us. This should shake things up, but I think we would have been throwing the baby out with the bath water if we were to have vetoed the budget." Ammiano went on to list what he and the Board intend to do to streamline and improve public health. These ideas consist of, but are not limited to, creating oversight committees, creating a better system of bookkeeping, decentralizing public health and giving each neighborhood more control over public health

The grounds of the suit have their genesis in the appalling state of care at SF General, Laguna Honda and the city's many clinics. The main complaints by healthcare workers, from doctors to clerical staff, are understaffing, lack of maintenance and lack of resources for existing services. "You have a 50 percent diversion rate [to other hospitals] for ambulatory emergency care at SF General," said Lynn Carman, attorney for the Emergency Coalition. "That means that for 365 hours out of the 700 hour month, you can be turned away from the emergency room at SF General. You better not get run over by a bus or the chances are pretty good you won't get any help"

#### **Attrition of resources**

San Francisco's public health system has suffered a steady attrition of resources and services over the last several years. In 1999 the Department of Public Health closed one of two outpatient pharmacies which serve the poor, and reduced the operational hours of the remaining pharmacy. In the summer of 2000, staffing for 20 medical surgical beds were eliminated. This eliminated 10 percent of SF General's staffed medical beds. Also in 2000, hiring freeze policies kept 362 medical staff positions unfilled at Laguna Honda and SF General in order to economize on payroll.

The Director Public Health, Dr. Mitch Katz, has stated that \$40 million would be needed to maintain current levels of service. Since the Emergency Coalition claims only \$10 million is being used for this purpose out of the \$77 million increase there is a \$30 million shortfall. This money needs to be taken from elsewhere in the City budget or else the budget is illegal, because healthcare service cuts will have to made and the public has not been informed of what services would be

According to California Health and Safety Code section 1442.5, any elimination of public health services must be posted for two weeks outside of public health centers and then arbitrated in public hearings, before being ratified by the Board of Supervisors. The city, say the lawyers, has not followed this procedure. This argument is the grounds of the suit. Deputy City Attorney Nathan Ballard told the New Mission News that the Coalition's suit was "not supported by the law or the facts."

Behind all the rhetoric are frustrated healthcare workers, frustrated patients and a frustrated public. "The most critical issue is staffing," said Peter Straus, a Recreation Therapist at the Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility located at the SF General Campus. Straus also said the city's clinics, in the Mission and elsewhere, desperately need repairs and maintenance of both equipment and buildings. Healthcare is a national, not merely a municipal, crisis.

#### **Priority battle**

In San Francisco, where public healthcare workers are terribly overworked and disgustingly underpaid, the main issue seems to be one of priority. Nora Roman indicated that \$7 million of the current budget was going to be put into insurance under the auspices of the SF Health Plan. "That's public money being spent on the private sector. People need health care, not insur-

Supervisor Ammiano again partially agreed, while defending the budget as it is. "There is a danger of privatization and the board is in cement against privatization, but there has always been subcontracting to private non-profits; it's impossible to avoid. I think the Coalition is right in trying to keep the City from going too far in that direction, however." Ammiano mentioned that the Board of Supervisors has been fighting to keep the dialysis center public, since the private sector would be able to decide not to provide service to non-citizens, for instance.

The main disagreement between politicians and healthcare workers seems to be whether or not it is worthwhile to invest public monies in new technologies and services when the City is barely able to maintain what it already has. The Board of Supervisors argues that stricter bookkeeping is needed, while the Coalition's spokespeople believe that lower income residents of San Francisco are being given short shrift.

Of the 180,000 uninsured people in San Francisco who use SF General and other public health care providers, 75 per cent are employed and yet their health care comes less frequently and at a higher price. This is a crisis, and it is up to the elected representatives of the City to try and work with those who are agitating for a solution.



#### The Daly Report

#### Supervisor Chris Daly

Now Tom said, "Mom, wherever there's a cop beatin' a guy

Wherever a newborn baby cries

Where there's a fight 'gainst the blood and hatred in the air

Look for me Mom, I'll be there

Wherever there's somebody fightin' for a place to stand

Or decent job or a helpin' hand

Wherever somebody's strugglin' to be free

Look in their eyes Mom you'll see me."

- Bruce Springsteen

he story is now woven into the quilt of American culture and history: everyday people struggling for their dignity and basic survival in the face of social and economic hardship. In telling the story of the Joads' migration from Oklahoma to California during the Great Depression, John Steinbeck makes the ultimate social critique, highlighting the contradictions between the haves and have-nots from the perspective of poor people. It is in this light, the powerless versus the all powerful, that Tom Joad fights back with righteous indignation.

Over 50 years later, Bruce Springsteen released the Ghost of Tom Joad, a chronicle of Tom Joad in the present day. And guess what? Tom still feels the injustice... hunger, homelessness, police brutality, incarceration rates, racism, immigrant bashing...

There is a beauty in the American classics, a beauty of humanity that exists in stark contrast to the history as written by the victors. The United States currently has the greatest disparity in wealth and income. The rich are getting richer while the poor are still with us. Yet the powerful will never emphasize this truth, and they

won't give you the perspective of the poor and the oppressed in the pages of the SF Chronicle or on the nightly news. For that, you have to visit our library and check out a book.

It is with this perspective that I oppose the placement of statues commemorating King Carlos III and Juan Bautista de Anza on Dolores Street.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa spoke these painful words about the history of Africa. "They came. They had the Bible and we had the land. And they said, "Close your eyes and pray." And when we opened our eyes, they had the land and we had the Bible." These words also ring true for the people who were colonized by the Spanish military general and political governor of New Mexico, Juan Bautista de Anza — with royal decree and financing from Carlos III, King of Spain.

There are those that believe that these statues, as part of our City's history, should be prominently displayed. They say that opposing the placement of these statues is a revision of history. However, many of these people are denying that, by and large, history has been written by the kings and generals, the presidents and executives. Millions of everyday people didn't make it into the history books. Commemorating historical figures with blood on their hands, while not even mentioning so many others, especially the victims, only makes sense if you believe to the victor go the spoils.

But many of us in San Francisco do not subscribe to this dominant ideology. Rather, we include in our worldview the perspective of the indigenous, the poor, and the oppressed, and it isn't a pretty sight. We may ask the same question that democratically elected Chief Nicaragua asked the Spanish Conquistadors in 1523, "And your King, who elected him?"





# Native American Health Center has a new home on Capp Street

ast year, many non-profit service agencies were threatened by astronomically high rents. Most survived the crisis, and at least one thrived. On July 14, the Native American Health Center, with dancers, drummers and food, celebrated the opening of their new 10,000 square foot facility at 160 Capp Street. The move was not prompted by an eviction, but by the expansion of operations of another non-profit. The Friendship House of American Indians is building affordable

housing at the Julian Avenue site vacated by the Health Center.

The new facility on Capp street means this neighborhood institution will continue to provide primary medical care, comprehensive dental care, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Program services and individual counseling in more spacious and better equipped surroundings. The Health Center has served both the uninsured and underinsured of the Mission District for 29 years.





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# Blondies Bar GRILL



### A Swank Neighborhood Bar in the Heart of San Francisco's New Bohemia

## Talking law and order

Monthly forum is a chance to be heard on the crime problem

By Josie Mattson

Being in a room filled to the brim with police officers means different things to different people. Lots of people don't like cops. Whether it's because they are criminals, teenagers, or someone with a legitimate beef against them, this is true. There are people, on the other hand, who like cops. They admire them, feel safe around them, and appreciate the service they provide to the community. Regardless of how you feel about the police, talking to them as equals is not always possible.

However, the Mission Police Station holds an open meeting each month, providing an opportunity to do just that. These meetings, held at 630 Valencia Street, serve as a neighborhood crime briefing, as safety education, and as an open forum to discuss issues in the neighborhood directly with police officers.

As a new Mission District resident, I attended the last meeting on June 26th, with the specified topic of "neighborhood safety," to see what I could learn about my new neighborhood. I already knew a few basic facts about my neighborhood, which gave me some expectations of what kinds of issues the community might present to the police. One: the Mission District is nearly 50 % Latino. Two: the Mission District is has many inner-city issues, from rent hikes to gentrification to some of the more concentrated violent crime in the city. Three: the Mission District has a strong sense of community founded on the diverse cultures and histories that comprise it. What struck me at this meeting was that, first of all, the people in attendance were not representative of the Mission District's demographic. Of the thirty-four people there, four were nonwhites. That said, I also felt that there were large portions of the community not present, such as organizations like Calles, which I imagine could benefit from an opportunity to exchange ideas with the police and neighborhood residents.

My reaction was, "Where is every-body?" Other public meetings I've attended in the Mission left me with a distinct impression of a diverse community, brimming with organizations working together to improve the quality of life. For example, at a budget discussion meeting held two months ago at Moscone School, numerous groups with numerous agendas paused to listen to the family member of a drive-by shooting victim.

When he turned to the crowd and apologized for taking time from the meeting, he was quickly met with calls of, "take my time!" That kind of community cohesion against crime was lacking at this police meeting. Instead, I sensed an "us vs. them" attitude in the comments that were made.

During the open forum part of the meeting, people in the audience have the opportunity to speak up about anything they think needs attention from the police. Among the things these Mission residents brought up were: the prevalence of drunks and transients on the streets, drug dealing and stolen goods trafficking, loitering and suspicious activities in certain areas by people assumed to be gang members, and the presence of day-laborers in the neighborhoods surrounding Cesar Chavez Street. Three successive comments were made concerning the day-laborers, the Day Labor Program, and its director, Renee

One resident was clearly upset by their presence on the streets near her home and by the efforts of the Program to defend their rights to be there. She said, "We're tired of these people hanging around." Another woman commented that Renee Saucedo specifically does not take the residents' concerns into consideration. Mission Station Captain Ron Roth, while being sympathetic to their complaints, told them"We can't just put them all in a paddy wagon," he remarked, "There are constitutional rights involved."

There were no representatives from the Day Labor Program or the day- laborers to respond to these comments. Especially at a time when the issue of the day-laborers is the cause of a hot dispute, I found it distressing that no one was there to give the day-laborers' side of the story. I was left with the impression that many representatives of the Mission community were not present here. The issues raised were good ones, and the meeting is a great opportunity for the needs of the district to be communicated to its law enforcers, but without the other half of the story, the issues don't have a chance of being solved. Whether it is because many community organizations are unaware of the meetings, or have chosen not to participate, and the meeting only serves a small segment of the neighborhood.. In order for them to serve their function, more people need to attend.

These meetings do serve to inform those who attend about crimeand what the police are doing. For example, Captain Roth, gave a summary of the previous month's more violent crimes. From May 31st to June 15th, there were three homicides in the Mission district. Two of them are situations in which the police have leads; the other is a "complete whodunnit," as the Captain said. This was a stabbing in which the victim had no criminal record, at 25th and Capp, an area that has since seen an increased police presence.

Captain Roth gave a pitch for the Clean Team, the summer job program that the police station offers to kids. Kids from the community are hired to work five days a week, from 3-7pm, cleaning any street in the district that needs it. If you know of a street that needs cleaning, call 558-5461, and the police will send a Clean Team.

Then there were also presentations by members of nonprofit organizations. Inna Chatsova of SF S.A.F.E., who demonstrated the basics of safety awareness, gave the main presentation for this meeting. The audience was receptive, and people discussed the various ways to deal with the dangers inherent in urban living.

Becky Jenkins, a representative of SF Community Boards, spoke about her group, which for 25 years has helped mediate neighborhood disputes in San Francisco. The group just moved to a new location at 24th and Folsom.

Community meetings with the police of the district are an opportunity for residents and business owners to directly participate in law enforcement.

The Mission Stagtion police Community Relations Meetings are held monthly and are open to any Mission District resident. The next meeting will be on August 28 at 6:00pm.at the Missin Police Station at 17th and Valencia



#### Robbery on Mission Street

Mission and Russia Street, July 6, 3 A.M.

A young man was the victim of a vicious gang-related assault at this time and location. As he stepped off a bus in the area, a suspect approached him and asked him what gang he was with. The victim said that he did not belong to a gang and, at this time, the suspect struck the man several times in the face with a closed fist. A second suspect intervened and stabbed the man in the arm twice with an ice pick. This incident will get the attention it deserve4s through the Gang Task Force and local police jurisdiction. There is no place in the city for this type of activity and steps will be taken to bring it to an abrupt halt

#### Stabbing on 24th Street

24th and Folsom Street, July 7, 1 A.M.

A man was stabbed as he walked home from a store in the area. Three men approached him and demanded that he give them his groceries. The victim refused. One of the suspects stabbed the man three times while the other two suspects beat him with closed fists. The victim was rushed to SFGH where he was interviewed by police officers following surgery.

#### **Armed Robbery on Mission Street** 4000 Block of Mission St., July 7, 1:30 A.M.

A man was robbed at gunpoint by four suspects traveling in a Honda Civic. The suspects fled the area in the vehicle. The victim flagged down a police car and gave the information to the police officers. The area was searched and in a short time the vehicle was spotted and the suspects were taken into police custody. The suspects

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were taken to Mission Station of the SFPD on charges of armed robbery.

#### Bank Robbery on 16th Street

2000 Block of 16th Street, July 8, 4 P.M.

Two suspects entered the bank at this location and handed the teller a note demanding all of the money at her station. The teller complied and the suspects fled the area in a late model Chevy. The suspects were captured by agents of the FBI and SFPD officers at 3rd and McKinnon Street within a few minutes of the incident.

#### **Knife Assault on Mission Street**

Mission and 20th Street, July 8, 3 A.M.

A man was robbed and stabbed at this location by a suspect brandishing a knife. The victim was rushed to the SFGH Trauma Unit and was listed in critical condition.

#### Stabbing on 24th Street

24th and Harrison, July 9, 1:30 P.M.

A man was robbed and stabbed at this location by a group of male suspects. The group beat the victim, during which time the victim was stabbed in the chest area, which resulted in a punctured lung. Once again, the attention of the Gang Task Force has been captured.

This column is brought to you as a public service of the SFPD Office of Public Affairs and Crime Stoppers. If you have a question or comment, please call the office at 553 1651.









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# The king and the moon

fter being thwarted in its attempts a year ago, the San Francisco Art Commission is once again trying to place statues of Juan Bautista de Anza and King Carlos III of Spain in the median strip of Dolores Street near Mission Dolores. Opponents of the statues say Anza, who established the first European settlement in what eventually became San Francisco, and Carlos, the reigning king at the time, are conquistadors and imperialists who have no place in our charming and politically correct community. Those in favor of the statues say they're an important part of our history that, blemished or not, should not be forgotten.

Let's consider the King Carlos statue for a moment. It was given to the City by the present King of Spain (who also has a Carlos in his name) as a Bicentennial gift. Perhaps the current King Carlos is, like most constitutional monarchs, a nice enough guy but a little dim from inbreeding. He seems particularly opaque on the whole Bicentennial—we are, after all, a two-hundred-year-old, monarchy-free zone—Celebration. Or maybe it was just an in-your-face thing: "Ha, ha, ha! It's me, Carlos! I'm back! Kiss my plinth!"

The fact is we do not and have not for the last two-hundred-and-twenty-five years accepted, sanctioned or encouraged the establishment of kings or the erection of their statues in our country. The whole concept of democracy is based on every-body making their own decisions and not leaving it up to some jaded hereditary ruler and the fruit of his loins. It's not that King Carlos was a conquistador, but that he personifies the specific form of tyranny our founding fathers overthrew. Thomas Jefferson would be appalled.

Imperialism already has a place of honor at Dolores and Market. A statue commemorating the Spanish American War shows a well-armed and steely eyed trooper looking into the distance for more Spaniards to kill (Hey, down the street it's their king!). His fallen comrade, gun still clutched in hand, lies draped over a cannon. The cheerleading god of war on horseback completes the scene. How'd our local activists miss this one?

#### History and trash

San Francisco has an inconsistent notion of what is history and what is trash. In a duel fought in 1859, California Supreme Court Justice David Terry, a supporter of slavery, shot and killed US Senator David Broderick, an opponent of slavery. The grove by Lake Merced where this victory for the forces of human servitude occurred

#### Editorial

V.E. Miller

is an official state historical site. Two stone phalli representing,, no doubt, the manliness of the duelists, have been erected in the positions where the combatants stood during the fatal exchange.

But sometimes history is expendable. In the anthology Reclaiming San Francisco: History, Politics, Culture, Nicholson Baker, in his article "Weeds," documents what he calls "a hate crime directed against the past." Late in 1995, librarians realized San Francisco's new Main Library, built at a cost of \$135 million to accommodate more books, was not even going to have enough shelf space for the library's existing collection. The solution: City Librarian Kenneth Dowlin had the Department of Public Works turn 200,000 books into landfill. A major uproar ensued when this was discovered, but the damage had already been done.

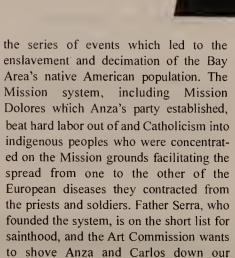
By comparison, the idea of dropping Anza and King Carlos in the Bay seems perfectly reasonable.

#### The Streets of Juan de Anza

Juan de Anza is a less obnoxious figure. He did lead, at least part of the way, the expedition that founded the City. Anza returned to Mexico before the expedition reached here, leaving the completion of the journey to his lieutenant, Moraga. Anza did eventually show up himself, so he's "historical." He's also overexposed. There's a plaque at the intersection of Camp and Albion commemorating the first camp of the Anza party in 1776 and the site of the first Mission Dolores.

There are, according to Streets of San Francisco: The Origins of Street and Place Names by Louis K. Loewenstein, no fewer than 27 San Francisco streets named after Anza, members of his party (probably every family name in the group), their supply ship (Santiago) and the viceroy who sent him hither (Bucareli Drive). This is really overdoing it. We're just lucky the street designators didn't know the names of the Anza party cats and dogs. If Anza's statue doesn't go up at 16th and Dolores, we are certainly in no danger of forgetting him and his associates.

Part of Anza's historical significance comes from the fact that he set in motion



#### **Erased from the record**

The Ohlone and other Native peoples have few memorials. On the reverse side of the Anza plaque on Camp Street, there is a much faded wooden sign recognizing them, that will be illegible long before the praise to Anza on the other side shows the first signs of rust. In the lobby of the Mission Police Station, an arrangement of seven small boulders on the floor duplicates the positions of stars in the constellation Pleiades. The stone sculpture commemorates the Ohlone belief that arranging rocks in this manner appeases an earthquake-causing monster that lives in a whirlpool in the Bay.

Other than this, the history of the original inhabitants of the Bay, like the people themselves, has been wiped out.

In another selection from Reclaiming San Francisco entitled "Seeing the Trees Through the Forest: Oaks And History in the Presidio," Pete Holloran rips into the official policy of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area that declares the Presidio's "period of significant historical development to be between 1776 and 1945." The elaborate ecology of the coastal oaks, which was an integral part of the lives of native people for thousands of years and still clings on here and there, is therefore not something to be even partially restored or actively protected.

Along with a number of ugly army buildings, the pines and eucalyptus planted in a willy-nilly fashion by the military, Boy Scout troops and rich dilettantes like Adolph Sutro, are by this policy historic, even though they tend to shade out the older native oaks. For the powers that be, nothing that existed before the European culture arrived is part of the historic

#### Ohlone moon

Anyone who has read *The Ohlone Way* by Malcolm Margolin knows that the Ohlone were a tolerant people who lived in hunter/gatherer harmony with their environment and who, unlike some pre-Columbian cultures, were truly peaceful. Margolin paints the rare instances of Ohlone limited warfare as largely ceremonial affairs that always ended as soon as a single person was killed.

In a battle described in the book, warring parties line up across an open meadow and make appropriately menacing gestures at one another as they gradually close the distance between them. At some point, a daring combatant leaps into the gap: "Enemy arrows fly around him but he

dodges them artfully, his red painted body writhing and contorting in the air. The talismans around his neck jerk and dance with a life of their own and his body seems filled with superhuman energy. The arrows all miss him and he vaunts and shakes his fist...As the ultimate insult he turns around bends over and sticks his buttocks out at the enemy."

In this gesture of mirthful defiance from the past lies the solution to our present day statue controversy. Let the imperial apologists put their fat king on the Dolores Street strip, but let's tip the balance and alter the message in favor of those who did not survive to write history.

Anza, with his twenty-seven streets, needs no further glory. In an act of artistic justice, melt him down and reform the material into the image of that anonymous, mooning Ohlone prankster. Install the completed work so that this irreverent warrior's gluteal maximal salute looms in perpetuity in the face of King Carlos III. A brass plaque at the base of the new statue would bear the simple words "Colonize this!" in English, Spanish, and a variety of Native American languages.

This is a win-win solution. The kinglovers and Philistines might be offended, but they can still enjoy their little piece of history as long as they are careful not to take a broader view—and so far they have not shown a tendency to do so. Those who wanted to stand back and see the bigger picture could take satisfaction in the proper American disrespect accorded to aristocrats, as well as in the fact that the first inhabitants of the Bay Area got in the last laugh.

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#### A near (buzzed to) death experience

ast month I was the victim of an unprovoked and senseless assault by a violent and desperate person I had never even seen before. As usual, that night, while I tried to enter my SRO Hotel I had to wait for the night manager to BUZZ me in the gate. That in itself seems degrading in view of my two-year tenancy at this SRO, but on this occasion my physical safety and life were at put at risk by having to ring up to enter.

Without warning, a neighborhood boy, (an ex-felon and repeat offender with convictions for battery on his recor - as I later found out) came up on me in the dark swiftly on a scooter, pushed me through the gate and deliberately assaulted me, intending to rob me even though I have nothing. It would not have happened if hotel owners did not treat us like second-class citizens. They have power over my safety because I do not have a front gate key like a free man.

To make matters worse, in this SRO the on-site night manager openly takes a sadistic pleasure in the tenants' personal misfortunes, sickness, poverty and addictions, as well as in problems directly attributable to living conditions in the hotel itself. He treats most of us in the building like dirt, with vile, cruel verbal abuse for me even though I am disabled and am currently fighting cancer. It is bad enough when the storeowners, shoppers and neighbors from other nearby apartment buildings look at me weirdly, making me feel less than human.

I am not a criminal waiting to be buzzed through a cell gate, nor am I any kind of animal being led to slaughter through locked gates, prodded and buzzed

# Guest Opinion by Mike Kushner

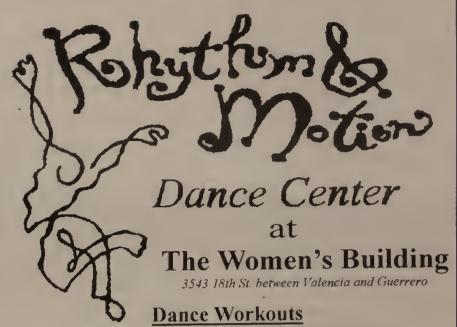
to my death, waiting a turn to be the next victim.

Although I am in a weaker position, and cannot get the one item of dignity and safety which could save me from becoming yet another street casualty, there is no justification for his daily making it more difficult for me to survive my environment. The gate-policy guarantees that many of us tenants will sooner or later become victims like I did, or end up in the emergency room.

I am a happy, friendly person who knows all the folks up and down my street within a two-block radius, including local residents, market clerks, shopping cart people and even the users & dealers. I myself do not ever use tobacco, alcohol or drugs and I always mind my own business. Ask anyone. I have never tried to hurt or steal from anyone.

It is bad enough the hotels are taking advantage of us by raking in money while providing no services, but putting my life at risk is totally unfair.

Mike Kushner, a Mission resident for 25



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# Dottie deathrattle

Webby Awards show seemed like the last hurrah of the d-c culture

by Sarah Bardeen

Community" was the word of choice at this year's 5th annual Webby Awards, a gala event held at the Opera House July 18th to honor...uh...virtual something-or-other. Of course, when the Webbies talk about community, they're not talking about, like, community. They're not talking about block parties, corner stores, neighborhood parks, the neighbors with whom you share cigarettes and whom you call the cops on when they party too late at night.

This is a different, cleaner, more conceptual community, a community that wears feather boas to gala, dress-code events (the Webby dress code this year was "gutsy") and doesn't actually meet in, like, the flesh that often. But when they do meet in the flesh, dot-commers are determined to do it up gaudy.

The red carpet was rolled out. Volunteers, dressed in clown wigs and "ethnic" attire, blew bubbles over the crowd of attendees in what was likely the best — and almost certainly unintentionally ironic — touch of the event. Bhindis (the Hindu forehead decoration) graced innumerable foreheads in the crowd of mostly white, young digital gurus. The digirati flooded into the venue, a sea of black leather.

In the foyer, Sam Donaldson bopped enthusiastically in a corner, reporting for ABC News with his toupee in tow. (Later in the night, an enlightened Webby awardee would intone his mandatory fivewords-only acceptance speech:

"Sam Donaldson. Dude, gnarly toupee.") A strolling accordionist walked by us and stuck his head in a box filled with lightbulbs, while a young Rudy Valentino look-alike told us enthusiastic tales about falling in love twice in six months in Bali.

The ceremony began. Founder Tiffany Shlain was the first to introduce the evening's organizing principle: "We're honoring not only excellence tonight, but tenacity and survival....[This year] has strengthened our community and made us more resilient." And indeed resilience poured out of the crowd, who looked like refugees from a war-torn strip mall, polishing last year's Kenneth Coles in an effort to make them look new, and wearing fading designer clothes. It was enough to break your heart.

Waxing philosophical, Tiffany sighed and mused on the Internet's lasting effects: "I don't think there's anyone who can imagine their life without it." Indeed. As Mission District residents look back on the past few years, who among us could picture life without the constant threat of eviction, the TICs, the dramatic increase in anorexic, cell-phone wielding women asking for directions to Blondies or the Slanted Door? Who could imagine life without the graceful cavalcade of SUVs barricading Valencia street every weekend?

Before turning the stage over to Mayor Willie Brown, Tiffany then expounded the Internet — and the Webby — ethic of embracing diversity at all times. "We've honored not only .coms but .orgs, .nets, .edus, .govs and we always

gnarly walked x filled g Rudy usiastic in six



have." Visibly moved, a few audience members brushed tears from their eyes.

True to form, Mayor Brown made his time in the spotlight count, falling back on that tried and true crowd-pleaser, tasteless jokes. "When a young woman called me and said 'I want to discuss the web with you," — Brown hunkered down and leered suggestively over the nest of microphones — "I immediately thought of something kinky. And no, my name isn't Condit."

Rushing swiftly on from his gracefully delivered low-blow, Mayor Brown touted (with some humor) the Webbies as an integral part of the city, and suggested that the city was still salivating over the prospect of prostrating before big business. "The Webbies are now a part of the City, a tradition up there with the opening of the Symphony, the Opera, the Ballet, the Giants...."

As this grotesque neo-corporate love-fest continued, only the queer (and Scottish) actor and host Alan Cummings offered any relief. Just after King Brown exited the stage, Cummings offered a nugget that suggested he understood the city's issues better than any of the San Francisco-based dot-commers that night: "Good thing the Opera House is still here; last year San Francisco was going to turn it into a live-work space." The crowd guffawed somewhat uneasily.

As the night wore on, the memorable moments became fewer and fewer. Offensive quotes about "community" were still bandied about freely, and Shlain

offered up a gem when she suggested that the night's judges shared —because of the Internet — "strength [that] comes from collective consciousness, their aggregate mind."

Another presenter also gushed about how the Internet "allows us to feel connected; closer to the issues and people we care about." Apparently, it also allows you to feel disconnected from the people you don't care about: your neighbors, the non-wired non-elite, people who make less than \$70,000 a year, the family you're evicting.

No matter. About 40 minutes into the awards, I found myself writing notes to myself like this: "DULL - decidedly!" Later: "I can't even sustain my vitriol, I am so numb and bored. BORING." And that may be a final nail in the coffin of the event and of the industry. As one young post-party attendee told me somewhat petulantly (and perhaps prophetically), "It's like going to an awards ceremony for the telephone company. Who cares?"

After the ceremony ended, my friend and I wandered around the 5 floors of gourmet spring rolls, free-flowing booze, and gaggles of people attempting to be "seen." An acquaintance begged me to write a good review of the band performing — Grandaddy — particularly because none of these hip, supposedly artistically-aware dot-commers actually watched the band. (They performed to a mostly empty auditorium.)

The boredom that so consumed me during the ceremony was only amplified at the gaudy and aimless after-party. Everyone there seemed desperately in search of a good time, but the good time eluded them. It was as if they were also searching out the glamour and the rush that had dominated this massive pat-yourself-on-the-back festival in years past. But they couldn't find the ego-strokers or scintillating conversation.

In the end, it felt very much the way the Mission feels to me right now. The Mission District was a weary, unwilling host; the party-goers were a bunch of thoughtless jerks who trashed the place and puked on their khakis.

They're still wandering around looking for some fun. But there's hope in sight. If the sheer banality of the Webbies didn't make it clear, the economy will. The party's over, folks. Pack up your feather boas and go home.

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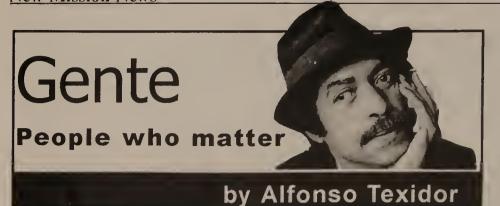
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Full disclosure: I work for a Mission-based dot-com.



#### Salvadoran Human Rights Suit

n June of 1983 Carlos Mauricio, a professor at the National University of El LSalvador, was lured away from his classroom, abducted at gunpoint and brutally tortured for days by men who interrogated him about anti-government activities at the university. Mauricio, a resident of the Mission for 18 years, is now suing those responsible for his abduction in a U.S. federal court.

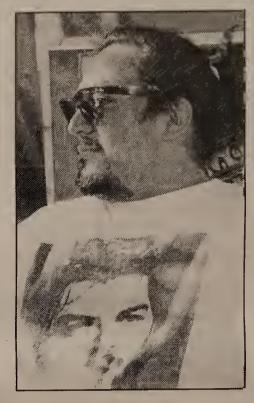
Mauricio gave a chilling account of his ordeal: "I was teaching my class in agricultural science when a stranger entered the classroom in the middle of my lecture and asked me to move my car because it was blocking his exit from the parking lot. I followed him outside the building and I was immediately surrounded by a gang of about 15 heavily armed thugs in civilian clothes. They knocked me to the ground with their rifle-butts and started kicking me. Then they handcuffed, blindfolded, and dragged me over the gravel and pushed me into a waiting car that took me to a building where they tortured me for approximately two weeks.

I was beaten with truncheons by men I couldn't see, and they interrogated me for days about my political ideas... questioning me continuously about the political turmoil in El Salvador, and asking me about my affiliations with people that I didn't even know. It's a miracle that I'm still alive."

When it was all over, they finally transferred him from the torture room to another area of the same building. "It was only then that they removed the blindfold from my eyes... I was shocked when I became fully aware of my surroundings. I realized that the place of my confinement and torture was actually situated in the headquarters of the national police. Upon my release, they stated clearly that I should leave the country for my own good as soon as possible, and they gave me a stiff warning that next time I wouldn't be

Now, 18 years later, Mauricio has decided to exorcise the demons that tormented him so mercilessly. He has joined forces with three other Salvadoran men who live in the U.S. (two in Chicago and one in Washington, D.C.) to file a lawsuit in a federal court in Palm Beach, Florida, against two high-level military officials. General Eugenio Vides Casanova and General Jose Garcia Mauricio are charged with having the ultimate responsibility for violating the civil and human rights of Mauricio and his fellow plaintiffs. The suit is supported by the Center for Justice and Accountability.

This will be a precedent-setting trial because, for the first time, Salvadoran generals will have to face charges of human rights violations in a U.S federal court. "Now that I am suing the generals, my



Carlos Mauricio

struggle is against the use of torture and its immediate consequences - the impunity of those who are guilty- so that the military leaders don't feel that they have a guaranteed immunity for their actions, as they have in the past," Mauricio said.

He dreams of building a coalition that will seek retribution and a final justice, and is in the process forming "Alto a la Impunidad," or "Stop the Impunity," an organization that will acknowledge the experience of the families of torture victims. "We should also include the families of people who were tortured or killed by death squads, and who witnessed these incidents of brutality. In the long run, I consider that they were all tortured," said Mauricio.



Eva (middle) wiyh clasmates Karen and Yesenia

#### One to Watch

\'va Jovel is a young artist from the community who already shows I much promise and who is gaining recognition for her artistic achievements. This 8 year-old 4th grade student at the Harvey Milk Academy recently won a \$10,000 scholarship award to attend the San Francisco Art Institute. Her artwork was chosen in a citywide competition with 350 other students, and her drawings also served as the basis for a mural which she painted in her school, assisted by fellow students Karen and Yesenia. Her proud mama is Maria Rocha, a Nicaraguan and long-time Mission resident.

#### **Carmencita Benefit Concert**

The Mission community has been surprised and saddened to learn of a tragic accident that occurred on June 22, causing severe physical injuries and requiring extensive surgery and hospitalization of Carmencita, the 14 year-old daughter of Miguel Almodovar and Loreta Marcel. There has been a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and support from the community at large, which hopefully may produce much-needed cash contributions (\$) for Carmencita and her family.

To that end, a group of friends and neighbors organized a benefit concert featuring John Santos' Machete Ensemble, Carlos Aceituno's Afro Brazilian Capoeira Group, Loco Bloco, Jorge Molina, Akinyele, and poétry by yours truly, Alfonso Texidor. The event will take place on August 5 from 12 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission



Carmencita with her father

Street, SF. If you would like to contribute, make checks payable to: Trust Fund, Mid Peninsula Bank/Carmen Marcel Account c/o Charles Armstrong School, 1405 Solana Drive, Belmont, CA 94002

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#### 3 FRIDAY

How about those Giants? - If you've wondered why Andre the Giant's face is plastered all over the city (and even the world), with the ominous sign "OBEY," now is your chance to find out: a new art exhibit, "Authentik," features Andre artist Shepard Fairey and other artists from his company, BLK/MRKT. Culture Cache Gallery, 1800 Bryant St. #104, opening reception 7-11 pm, free. 626-7776.

Happy feet - Jin Wen Yu Dance presents Interspace, a combination of Tai Ji, modern dance, and Chinese opera dance in six new and recent works. ODC San Francisco, 3153 17th St., 8pm, \$15. 863-9834. Also on the 4th.

#### 4 SATURDAY

Free barbecue - Who could ask for more when El Rio has live music all day and night, and a complimentary omnivore barbecue? Day show: Universal Mind, Honey Shot, Stone Vengeance, Totimoshi & the Idiots (3-8pm), night show: Red Meat, David Gleeson & Wasted Days (9 pm door, 10 pm show). Omnivore bbq. 3-5 pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, \$7. 282-3325.

Fresh princes - The Fresh Voices Festival III showcases new works by Bay Area composers and librettists in a cabaret/opera setting. Tonight's program includes a performance of Antigone, Miniature Portraits, "Toccata di Luna" from Apollo 14, A Space Opera, and Modulating Back to Tonic. Goat Hall, 400 Missouri St., 8 pm, \$15. 289-6877. Also on the 3rd.

#### 5 SUNDAY

A whole lotta Butoh goin' on - The San Francisco Butoh Festival, which for the past six years has amazed and confounded audiences with its expansion of the world of Japanese Butoh, concludes its performances tonight with a Japanese New Wave program, illuminating the newest performing trends in Japan. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 7 pm, \$20-\$25. 621-7797.

#### 6 MONDAY

Take it for granted -Learn grant writing in an intensive workshop, "Grant Writing for Artists, Writers, Performers & Filmmakers," and receive an 80-page

> Taco Bar Where every meal is a Fiesta"

handout of successful grant samples. BUILD, 483 Guerrero St., 7-10 pm, \$29.

Funny you should say that - Check out tonight's line up of stand-up comics, stagehacks, and other attractions at the Monday Night Marsh. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$7. 826-5750.

#### 7 TUESDAY

Wasted away again at \$2 a pop - El Rio offers 2 dollar margaritas, an omnivore barbecue, and an Outdoor Cinema presentation of "The Early Work of Alan Berliner," all for a \$7 cover. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., barbecue 6:30-8, film at 8:30, \$7. 282-3325.

Croaked critters - Learn to cope with grieving for a lost pet at the SF SPCA's free pet loss support group. SF SPCA, 243 Alabama St., 7:30-9 pm, free. 554-3050.

#### 8 WEDNESDAY

Now heal this - Get healed at a free healing fair offered by Psychic Horizons, Church of Natural Grace. Psychic Horizons, 970/ 972 Valencia St., 2pm, free. For more information call 643-8800 or go to.

Reader leaders - If you spent your summer reading like you should have, you're invited to the Summer Reading Party at the Mission Branch Library, a celebration with refreshments for the end of the Summer Reading Club, for all ages. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St., 3 pm, free. 695-5090.

#### 9 THURSDAY

Reel life - If you love movies and love talking about them, check out the Film Discussion Group held at Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 4 pm, free. Call 557-4277 for topics and info.

It's in the bag -Witness the top freestyle hackysackers in the world compete for the World Freestyle Footbag Championship title, in choreographed solo performances set up like a gymnastics competition. Accompanied by a live DJ, comedy acts, and juggling. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 8 pm, \$10. 621-7797. Continues on the 11th.

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#### 10 FRIDAY

A whole mess of photos - Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts presents two new exhibits, "El Mes de la Fotografia III' (Month of Photography III), photographs of the last living Zapatistas, and of California farm workers from 1971 to the present. The second exhibit, "Antonio Huerta, de la Piedra al Metal" (The Flight of Human Imagination), is an interpretation in 12 cases from around the world of the search for the infinite. Mission Cultural Center. 2868 Mission Street, 7-9pm, \$3. 821-1155

The whatness of who? - Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents The Whichness of Why, by AIRspace artist in Residence, K. Grgurevic, a high-energy dance exploration of alternative relationships. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St., 8 pm, \$5-\$10. 554-0402. Also on the 11th.

#### 11 SATURDAY

North African navel manuvers - Fat Chance Belly Dance presents North African tribal dance music and belly dancing performances that celebrate the various backgrounds of North Africa: Berber, Arabic, African, and Mediterranean. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, 8 pm, \$15. 731-5539.

Johnson does Johnson - Denis Johnson reads from his new piece Q & A, followed by a performance of the world premiere of his new play, Shoppers Carried by Escalators into the Flames, about a family reunion in Ukiah that delves into firearms and tequila. Intersection, 446 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$25-\$50. 626-3311.

Southern discomfort - The Freedom Socialist Party presents a public forum, "Maquiladora Workers Organize in El Salvador," a discussion of neo-liberalism in El Salvador. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St., 7:30 pm, \$2 donation, \$6.50 for dinner. 864-1273.

#### 12 SUMPAY

Weirdness under the canvas - Check out the "Tim Burton-esque" Circus Contraption, a show that's been called "Cirque de Soleil meets the Rocky Horror Picture Show," accompanied by a band that's been described as "Tom Waits crossed with a Wings of Desire band." Intrigued? So are we. CELLSpace, 2050 Bryant St., 8 pm, \$12, 648-7562.

#### 13 MONDAY

Tea reading - Michelle Tea reads from her new work in progress, The Chelsea Whistle, at Adobe Bookshop, 3116 16th St., 8 pm, free. 864-3936.

#### 14 TUESDAY

But who was #56? - Award-winning author E. Lynn Harris, named by Ebony magazine as one of the fifty-five Most Intriguing African Americans, reads from his new book Any Way the Wind Blows. Main Library, Lower Level Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St., 6:30 pm, free. 557-4277.

#### 15 WEDINESDAY

(ALENDAR

Spin City - DJ Javier spins the golden era of Latin Music on a no cover night at El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 7:30 pm, free. 282-

#### 16 THURSDAY

Classic threesome - St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church hosts an evening of classical music with excerpts of Bach, Debussy, and Loeffler, performed by members and former members of the San Francisco Symphony and other musicians. St. John's, 1661 15th St., 8 pm, \$10. 861-1436.

#### 17 FRIDAY

Homebodies - ODC / San Francisco presents an evening of new works by Saltmarsh Dance and California Contemporary Dancers: Blinds, a dance exploration of the ways different rooms in the home affect mood and emotion. ODC/ San Francisco, 3158 17th St., 8 pm, \$15. 626-6745. Also on the 18th.

Not guilty - AIRspace Artist in Residence Carrie Peters presents a dance theater work titled Children of the Marvelous, an exploration of anxiety, loneliness, fantasy, and survival, seen in the spirit of childlike innocence. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St., 8 pm, \$5-\$10. 554-0402. Also on the 18th.

#### 18 SATURDAY

A change of face - Test your artistic talent at mask making at the Mask Making Workshop, Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 2-4 pm, free. 557-4277.

Willie-less Will - Woman's Will, the allfemale Shakespeare company, makes it to Dolores Park with their production of Comedy of Errors, concluding their summer of park performances. Dolores Park, 18th and Dolores, 1 pm, free. 567-1758. Also on the 19th.

#### 19 SUNDAY

Goin' with Goggin - Local artist Brian Goggin offers a guided tour of his new public art pieces commemorating Bernal Heights and Mission Street history, titled "Substrada." Meet in front of the Bank of America building at 3250 Mission St., 12 noon, free. 252-2559.

Dead poet society - Homage to Lorca in Lorca on the Anniversary of his Death: Editorial Este O Este presents a new book of poetry in Spanish, and a slide show on the life and poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca Lorca Restaurant/ Café, 3200 24th St., 7 pm, \$2.

#### 20 MONDAY

Felonious premier - At long last, the world premiere of Beatbox: A Raparetta, a new production written and performed by beatbox masters Felonius: onelovehiphop, a local rap group that helps bring hip hop back to its roots through instrumentation, freestyling, and beatbox jams. Written in rhyme and beatbox, the play is about a group of people facing the question, "Can I rise above my limitations?" August 20th - Sept 8th, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 3 pm and 8 pm, \$25. 621-7797.

#### 21 TUESDAY

Seven minute wonders - Check out the new blood in comedy and improv as performers present up to 7 minutes of work, which is videotaped and then discussed at the Marsh Lab. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., 6:30-9:30 pm, \$15 to participate, \$7 to watch. 826-5750.

#### 22 WEDNESDAY

Go ahead, get heart-broken - The SF SPCA is offering a foster kitten class, to train you to be a kitten foster caregiver. But you have to give them back. The Solarium at Maddie's Pet Adoption Center, 250 Florida St., 6-7:30 pm. 522-3542. Also on August 12th.

Defeat the rich - The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board urges you to attend this public meeting on homeless and low-income budget priorities. Let the city know how you think its budget for the homeless should be spent. Department of Public Health, 101 Grove St., Health Commission Room 300, 6-9 pm. 252-3158.

#### 23 THURSDAY

Get it in print - Artist reception for a new exhibit of artist printmakers from all over the world, "Print Internationale." Café Americana, 968 Valencia St., 6-8 pm, free. 641-0888.

#### 24 FRIDAY

Non-nuclear fusion - El Rio hosts the Power of Creative Fusion, with spoken word poets, visual artists, and Djs, hosted by San Francisco slam-team 2000 member Rene Van and performance poet Clare Lewis. Free oysters from 5-7 pm, and Club Nzinga, world beat dance party with DJ Jose Ruiz after the performances. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 6:30-8:30 pm, \$5-\$10. 282-3325.

#### 25 SATURDAY

Hot women - Celebrate Women's Rights Day with Bay Area Radical Women at its 2nd annual "Fiery Feminist Freedomfest," with poetry readings, spoken word, musicians Pam Pam and Veronica Black, belly dancing, an open mic, and more. Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 7 pm, \$5 donation, \$8.50 donation includes dinner.

Cuddlers needed - The SF SPCA is holding a volunteer workshop to train new volunteers in their available positions as cat socializes, dog walkers, and adoption counselors. SF SPCA, 243 Alabama St., 10 am-2 pm. 554-3087.

It's a small synagogue after all - Tour of the Congregration Sha'ar Zahav with a brief Havdalah sevice to celebrate the end of Shabbat. Refreshments. 290 Dolores, 6-8pm. 575-4961

#### 26 SUNDAY

21st Annual Xicana Moratorium Day-6am sunrise ceremony with Danza Azteca Xitlalli in Dolores Park. Event continues from 12-4 with music, booth vendors, food, poetry and information on community and Raza struggles! Tune in KPFA (94.1FM) Fridays 8-11pm La Onda Baiita

Three ring a ding ding -A cacophonous crew of talented musicians band together for a "Sonic Circus," combining influences from Jazz, Latin, Funk, Country and World music, joined onstage by several circus performers. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 8 pm, \$16, 621-7797.

#### 27 MONDAY

Mighty Mike you will like - Mike Duvall and others take the stage tonight for the raucous night of comedy and what not that is the Monday Night Marsh. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$7, 826-5750.

#### 28 TUESDAY

Box lunch - El Rio hosts an Outdoor Cinema showing of *Pandora's Box*, by FW Murnau, with a live original score performed by The Golden Arm Trio from Austin, with complimentary omnivore barbecue. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., bbq. 6:30-8, film 8:30, \$7. 282-3325.

#### 29 WEDINESDAY

Knight time - Kids can learn the fine art of chess at the Library's weekly Chess Club, held at the Bernal Heights Branch, 500 Cortland Ave., 4 pm, free. 695-5160.

#### 30 THURSDAY

Three Centuries of Resistance - Twelve men who fought under the coommand of Emiliano Zapata in the Mexican Revolution are interviewed in the film The Last Zapatistas Forgotten Heroes.

These men lived during the oppression of the 19th Century, rebelled against it in the 20th and are still alive to tell the tale in the 21st. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission Street, 7pm, \$2.821-1155

Adult entertainment - Get into reading with the Adult Reading Group, held at Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 4 pm, free. For more info call 695-5160.

#### ONGOING THEATER AND DANCE

Girly show - The Bay Area premiere of the new hot lesbian comedy *Girl Meets Girl*, about a magazine editor who finds love at her fortieth birthday party. July 11th- August 5th, Theatre Rhinoceros, Mainstage, 2926 16th St., 8 pm, \$20-\$25. 861-5079 or www. ticketweb.com.

WOW women - Footloose @ Venue 9 hosts The Women on the Way (WOW) Series, a commitment to staging full productions of work by exemplary women artists, with a presentation of Closing In, an evening of dance, theater, and live music, performed by three innovative women artists. August 9 - 19th, Venue 9, 252 9th St., 8 pm, \$12-\$15. 626-2169.

Fear and fear in Las Vegas - The Marsh presents The Carol Meyers Story (a Comedic Stand-up Tragedy), the story of a stage-fright stricken comedian's struggle

with religious fear, selling out, performance and failure, as she makes her way to the Las Vegas Papaya room. August 10-25, The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$10-\$15, 826-5750.

Queer repast - Theater Rhinoceros presents "Playwright's Stew," a three-week festival of new queer plays by up-and-coming playwrights. August 10-25, The Studio at Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., 8:30 pm, \$10 each or \$25 for the festival. 861-5079.

The wright stuff - The Playwrights Foundation presents the 24th annual Bay Area Playwrights Festival, ten days of new plays by local writers, directors, and dramaturges. The Festival has in the past been the birthplace of great theater, giving new playwrights the chance to develop and produce their work. August 16-26, Z Space Theater, 1360 Mission St., \$10 donation. Call 263-3986 for plays and times, or go to.

The rap stuff - At long last, the world premiere of *Beatbox: A Raparetta*, a new production written and performed by beatbox masters Felonius: onelovchiphop, a local rap group that helps bring hip hop back to its roots through instrumentation, freestyling, and beatbox jams. Written in rhyme and beatbox, the play is about a group of people facing the question, "Can 1 rise above my limitations?" August 20th - Sept 8th, Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St., 3 pm and 8 pm, \$25. 621-7797.

Marxist mirth -Footloose @ Venue 9 presents Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup, a play about a Latina lesbian who wakes up one morning to discover that she's morphed into Groucho Marx. August 23rd - September 9, Venue 9, 252 9th St., 8 pm, \$12-\$15. 626-2169.

Family outing - Campo Santo and Intersection for the Arts present Shoppers Carried by Escalators Into the Flames, a play that shows with brutal humor a dysfunctional American family's attempt to discover its roots and history in memory and family tragedy. August 8th - September 2nd, Intersection, 446 Valencia St., 8 pm, \$9-\$15. 626-3311.

#### EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK

#### MONDAYS

The cheapest buzz in town - El Rio, your Dive, offers Dollar Day with all well drinks and Bud Light \$1, with Vroom DJ's spinning punk, funk, & soul. El Rio, 3158 Mission St., 8-12 pm, no cover. 282-3325.

#### TUESDAYS

Pre-school Storytime, for ages 3-5. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St., 10:30 am, free. 695-5090.

Meditate at a 100% discount - Psychic Horizons, a school for meditation and healing since 1971, offers a free meditation class. Psychic Horizons, 972 Valencia St., 7:30, free.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Get in gear - SF Bicycle Coalition Volunteer Night. Where the elite meet to stuff envelopes. Add office skills to your resume and enjoy the company of other cyclists. 1095 Market Street #215, 5-8pm. Call 431-BIKE

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Practice your Spanish with others at an all-levels conversation group. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 7 pm, free. 695-5160.

Word wonks wanted - Bring your dictionary and meet your vocab-loving soul mate @ Scrabble Nights, Wednesdays @ Bernal Heights Branch Library, 7 pm, free. 695-5090.

Meet your mate - Get out some pent-up aggression at the weekly all-star, all-levels chess club. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Avc., 4 pm, free. 695-5090.

#### THURSDAYS

Cine-sational - Cine Club sceens films from and about Latin America. Some are in English and some in Spanish. This month be sure to catch the US premier of The Last Zapatistas: Forgotten Heroes on August 31st. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission Street, all films shown at 7pm, \$2. 821-1155

#### FRIDAYS

Let the games begin - Discover a healthy alternative way of meeting people at SF Games, and play any game from spades, hearts, backgammon, scrabble, and cribbage, to anything you want to bring along. City Blend Café, 3087 16th St., 7-10 pm, free. 820-3200 x 105.

#### SATURDAYS

A day in the park - Get healthy with Tai Chi at the park. Neighborhood Parks Council hosts free Tai Chi at Precita Park, Precita and Folsom, 10:30 am, free. 621-3260.

Two tongue tales - Storytime in English for the whole family, followed by Storytime en Espanol for the whole family. No word yet on whether it's the same story. Afterwards take part in a short craft. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 695-5090.

#### SUNDAYS

Eye candy stroll - Precita Eyes and Murals has made new additions to its popular mural walk, which now covers 50 murals in a 6-block walk, and cultural and historical sites along the way. Precita Eyes and Mural Arts and Visitors Center, 3448 Precita Ave., 11 am, \$8 general, \$5 seniors, \$2 under 18, 285-2311.



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# THE DISH IN THE MISSION Jane Dixon

ello, my fellow Missionites and, more importantly, a big, warm, snappy salute to my fellow Americans. Thank you all so much for the biggest response ever to "The Dish" in July's edition. That was the one in which I confessed my patriotism as an American, and decried the noticeable absence of patriotic displays on The Fourth of July around here. Well, from the fervor of your responses, I was preaching to the choir. (Hint for somebody enterprising: get a US Flag concession going; there seems to be a market of proud but silent Americans in the Mission).

Maybe it's just being taken for granted that we rejoice in our sameness as Americans while we take great pains to profess our tolerance for diversity of our backgrounds. I say let's resolve not to take it for granted. E Pluribus Unum: One From Many. These United States are the One.

#### Mr. Lincoln speaks

Here's an interesting piece of info which caught my attention because I'm a "word person:" Until the War Between the States was over the United States took the plural (and logical) verb form; i.e., "the United States are." At the end of the Civil War, President Lincoln and everybody else began to use the singular, though grammatically incorrect verb form, "the United States is." Our Union was then and still is more powerful than logic or rules of gram-

If I really am preaching to the choir, here's what I'd like to happen. Will some of you kindly volunteer to join me in an attempt to get some American Flags to fly on national holidays along Mission Street? It'll take money and manpower. Umm, that's person-power, I guess. I know there are banners in place there declaring the obvious: that you're in the heart of the

Now that's preaching to the choir. Frankly, I much preferred seasonal (okay, I'll say it, Christmas) decorations, and would work towards providing those for the Holidays, as well as the US Flags. What do you think? Are you up for a little "Home 'Hood Decorating"? It's been my experience that for the ten years I'm lived and worked around the Mission, folks are always ready to turn up for a new idea if there's free food and some cheap wine being handed out, but few if any are ready to take up a cause. Wouldn't want to start this without support that will follow through.



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#### **Lefties unite!**

The preceding declaration leads me to another confession of sorts. It is I, your very own Mission Dish, Jane Dixon by name, who is the Left-Handed activist of very little note. For more than twenty years, I've hosted parties (well, events) on August 13th, a day that happens to be National Left-Handers Day. That's not something I made up; I read it in a nowdefunct magazine devoted to left-handed people, their problems and, of course, things to sell for lefties. The Internet has some information on where to get lefthanded gear, and no, the little place at Pier 39 is no longer there. My events worked pretty well Back East: got ourselves written up a few times.

Do you realize that at least one person in ten is left-handed? And I'd bet my left arm that the proportion is even greater here on the rive gauche (left coast). Yet somehow the significance of the difference is so lost on right-handers that they, the majority, rule. So, kindly remember you heard it here first: the right-handed people rule in ignorance and someday, when science understands more about how our brains work, the phenomenon of left-handedness will be better understood and appreciated. (There has already been a course given at UC Berkeley on left-handedness.)

Then parents, teachers and everyone will know that left-handed people are not just the opposite of right-handed people; there are many variations of brain dominance in the left-handed, and only one for righties. A Leonardo can only be lefthanded, for example. Don't be looking for the Left-handed event in The Mission come this August 13th. Cancelled due to lack of interest. Enough said.

#### **Welcome and welcme back**

Among the comings and going in the Mission is that Classic Consignment, which used to be on Valencia Street, has morphed into something new and better. It's called The Apartment, it's located at 18th and Lexington, on Lex, and Lann and Lino (former proprietors of Classic Consignment) have added a new partner, May. The idea is that they will use the actual ('tho non-functional) apartment attached to their storefront for displaying their wares, with items for sale in the appropriate rooms. Neat, huh? Meanwhile, they're up and running Wednesday through Sundays. Check it

Another newcomer is The Yoga Tree, and they are providing walk-in massages. In other words, you don't need to call a masseur or masseuse for an appointment when you need a massage right now, only to find them booked until a week from next Friday. They also provide a full menu of Yoga classes at so many different times that you're sure to find one to fit into your schedule. The space is everything you'd hope for-Tara, who runs it, has a successful Yoga Tree on Stanyan and was able to be choosey for her second studio. We are truly fortunate to have this new facility in our midst. And by the way, if you know what massages cost, you'll be delighted with the prices at The Yoga Tree Mission Branch (puns always intended).

Responses are welcome to me at (415) 626-2320 or The Dishat NMN @aol.com.



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#### Stop worrying about injustice and come out to Burning Man

t is perhaps because corporate leaders like myself are distinguished above all by the breadth of our vision that we find the narrow-mindedness of those who protest global capitalism so saddening. Take, for example, these benighted French people who regularly vandalize their local McDonalds—apparently out of the conviction that their fellow countrymen will somehow be irreparably harmed by eating Big Macs and fries like the rest of us, rather than the frogs, snails and various unmentionable animal parts of which their diet currently consists

Can there be any doubt that these xenophobic foreigners need to expand—or perhaps we should say supersize—their horizons, and come to understand that there is a new world out there where their ridiculous customs and traditions no longer have a place?

Not, of course, that our home-grown anti-globalization activists are any less ethnocentric-when they attempt, with a zeal that is nothing short of imperialistic, to impose an American ideology of workers' rights on our nation's less developed trading partners.

For just because American proletarians are, unfortunately, all too willing to allow their work-lives to be regimented by draconian safety codes and onerous minimum wage laws, there is no reason to presume that, say, the former university student employed stitching running shoes in a Chinese re-education facility is equally ready to betray the cause of economic liberty. After all, he did in all likelihood end up in his current situation precisely because twelve years ago in Tiananmen Square he was so eager to stand up for freedom.

What is particularly hurtful, though, to caring executives like me is that these activists never express any gratitude for all the wonderful things multinational corporations do to enhance not only our cultural life but our civic life too. For, just as, say, General Electric or ADM raise the tone of our public television system through their generous support of quality programming like The McLaughlin Group and NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, so they and other corporate citizens underwrite a far more important national institution: our

body politic-sponsoring quality candidates like George W. Bush, and thus staving off the cheapening and vulgarization of democracy that inevitably ensues when elections become a mere tool for the ignorant masses to inflict their wrongheaded choices on the rest of us.

Of course, many of you have been led to believe that corporate interests, and the wealthy and patrician politicians they back, are greedy, self-serving, and care little for losers like you. Yet a brief glance at the newspapers will show that the opposite is in fact the case: for did President Bush introduce his tax cut with any other goal in mind than to ensure that working families would have more money in their pockets? And why else would Supervisor Newsom be so adamantly opposed to the Board's despicable anti-tenancics-in-common legislation, than because he believes that TICs are simply the best means to ensure that the little people can become homeowners too?

It is high time, then, for the activists among you to accept that important decisions about your future should be left to those of us whose vision is more global than yours and who honestly have nothing but your best interests at heart. When you do, you will no doubt feel quite embarrassed that you were duped into wasting your time volunteering for all those silly causes-not to mention ashamed of the many baseless accusations you leveled against your betters in the heat of your misguided passion.

So allow me to suggest how you can both find new structure and purpose in your lives and make amends to those you have so grievously slandcred. Stop worrying about injustice, economic rights and all that other divisive dogma, and instead devote yourselves to something which actually brings the classes together: get involved with Burning Man, where enthusiastic and gullible bohemian volunteers are always welcome, and where, thanks to the event's increasing popularity among the Bay Area's corporate elite, people like you can give back to your superiors-by donating your creativity and hard work to ensure that they enjoy a truly marvelous desert vacation.





Ed's Redeeming Qualities (L to R) Dom Leone, Dan Leone, Carrie Bradley and Nino Perotta

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# Steppin' Out

by Sonny Smith

#### Dom Leone's distinguished career

nly about five or six people living in San Francisco- in fact California- ever met songwriter Dom Leone, and yet he's had what you might call a "distinguished career" here. A Special Tribute CD release party dedicated to Leone will be happening at the Bottom of the Hill on August 16th and 17th for two consecutive nights. It will feature some of this town's biggest bands as well as a handful from the East Coast, and it will be sold out.

If you've been bouncing around the music scene in this town long enough and you remember back to the days of the Albion, Star Cleaners, and the Chameleon, you might just have caught Ed's Redeeming Qualities when they were playing all over this town, and particularly in the Mission. Dom Leone was one of the four original members of Ed's with his cousin Dan Leone, Carrie Bradley and Nino Perotta.

But this line-up never existed in San Francisco: it began in Portsmouth, Massachusetts or thereabouts. Four songwriters slapped together, all coming out of graduate school back in Boston. Ed's made a splash among the East Coast underground with a couple of successful demos, and soon became an aboveground splash in Boston

Then, just as their fame was at its peak, Dom succumbed to cancer and died at the age of 29, leaving behind 25 truly original songs and a small handful of short stories. Well...the band picked up the pieces and moved out west in a maroon LTD and an Oldsmobile.

They came to San Francisco to start a new life. And they kept playing Dom's songs, as well as their own, all over this city, put out four albums and toured extensively; a movie was even made, based directly on the band (Ed's Next Move). One of his songs, Drivin' on 9, was covered by the Breeders, who took it around the world, gave it commercial radio play, picked up Bradley on violin and helped Ed's become a college radio regular.

Try to imagine the Breeders at their zenith, playing Drivin' on 9 for seventy thousand people holding their hands over their head with their lighters at a rock stadium in Nuremberg, and you can begin to see just how far this very shy songwriter's work traveled and grew. The Ed's albums were dedicated to Dom, and presented his drawings on the covers and on t-shirts. After his death, a special memorial writing competition and accompanying festival was created in his name, back in Ohio where he was from.

The band helped Dom record some of his 25 songs on a home recording machine before he died: the rest were gathered from



desperate home recordings he made alone. There they were: 25 perfect songs. Those 25 songs are brilliant in their simplicity, sincerity and black humor. The '25 songs' is a sensation not unlike Robert Johnson's 29 songs. In fact, there is a distinctive similarity between the two in that the very style in which they are played on acoustic guitar is deceptively simple, very soulful, and each one is a fully realized song distinct from the others.

Both men had a unique style of singing and delivery and, of course, Robert Johnson also died at a young age. A feeling of mystery and almost poetic beauty is added by the fact that their songs were never, say, sullied by a future gone commercial or by a cheesy follow-up album, or other modern-day scenarios. The songs also share a similarity with those of another American, almost-mythic, character: Stephen Foster. Creator of many American campfire classics – Old Kentucky Home, Hard Times, Oh, Susannah, etc.— Foster captured a keen sense of Americana.

In the same way, Leone's songs carry a distinct feeling of America in them, albeit with more wry wit and sardonic humor than Foster's. You could sing them at a campfire, but they contain enough Mark Twain-style wit that you wouldn't feel like a cheeseball, as you might singing Oh, Susannah. They're classic American tunes!

"He was just the kind of guy that would jump in his car one day and drive across the country, on a whim, just taking off," Bradley says. The fact that his songs aren't as prevalent as Foster's, or Woody Guthrie's, isn't a reflection of the quality of his songs but a reflection of the times we're livin' in, and of the fact that the only way you'll find yourself in the national consciousness these days is to practically be a television personality.

The 25 songs appear speckled throughout Ed's 4 CDs with vocals done by Dan Leone or Carrie Bradley or Nino Perotta or Jonah Winter. But that original home recording was- up until now- just a source of material for the band and close friends. Finally, a producer and old friend from the East Coast stepped in and took it upon himself to produce a tribute album. He sent this home recording out to all the various bands in S.F. and the East Coast that had played with Ed's through the years, and out of their responses came this new tribute album.

Someday perhaps a CD of those original home recordings will be released, showcasing his songs simply and deliberately in his own laconic, almost matter-offact singing style that makes the sardonic and often ironic lyrics even more poignant. But until then, you can hear his songs as interpreted by the likes of 100 Watt Smile, Granfaloon Bus, Fuck, the Buckets, 86, Warm Wires, the new up-and-coming nimbly eclectic post-modern San Francisco sensation Honeybone, as well as some amazing bands from the other coast... not to mention the grand reunion of Ed's Redeeming Qualities itself at the Bottom of the Hill, Thursday and Friday nights, August 16th and 17th.

#### Hellhole here we come

Editor,

The recently enacted Mission Moratorium has sealed the fate of the Mission to remain and become the welfare hellhole of San Francisco. By insisting that 25% of new housing be "affordable" guaranties that no new housing will be built by the private sector. The city may build some, but like all city construction, it will be cheaply constructed at great expense.

By closing down all new commercial development except "neighborhood serving" entities, the new bohemia will be stopped in its tracks. Only Government services and nonprofit need apply. This will assure that the area becomes increasingly welfare dependent and without hope. This is billed as a temporary moratorium, but I have yet to see a temporary moratorium that has not become permanent.

James Keefer

#### Still holdin' on

Dear Editor:

I am still waiting for Mr. Shaw to reply to Joan (no relation) Holden: when will the tenants' movement explain how Prop H will not force small landlords (of which there are many in this area) to sell, or that 'H' will be good for tenants.

He launches into a diatribe about 'failed meetings' of the past, as if ego gratification on the part of negotiators was the requisite ingredient, rather than tenants' benefits. One of the lack of benefits in Prop H (assuming it holds up in court, which appears unlikely) is that tenants have no choice under its provisions. It is one thing to protect vulnerable renters from unwanted overcharges; but it is another to illegalize any improvements for which tenants would gladly pay (and landlords would front the bill). Is that his idea of "helping" tenants?

I thought the gist of consumer protection was to give the consumers choice in matters affecting them, not to make blanket prohibition eliminating choice. 1 know, I know, he will claim that tenants just haven't benefited (enough). In actuality SanFrancisco tenants are in a virtual class among themselves regards benefits in this land, enjoying protections and rights that virtually no other place has. Even NYC is seeing rollbacks to its vaunted rent control structure.

I will wager that in SF at least 70% are paying less than they would pay in virtually any other city in CA\*\*, and many are paying less than in other cities in the country. And to then make it such that 25% of the SF housing stock (the 2-4 units typi-

# Letters to the Editor

cally owned by small landlords like Holden) is precluded for preserving and protecting recourse for those structures: does this seem like a "benefit to tenants"? In fact it darkly previsions a takeover by larger entities (non-profits like THC??), or even corporate REIT monsters which can mean little good for renters.

Of course my question also went unanswered: if Mr. Shaw is so interested in benefiting tenants (instead of bolstering egos of their "patrician protectors") why doesn't he lobby for extending rent controls to tenants in the non-profit housing, such as the 800+ units Mr. Shaw's THC controls? Aren't the most vulnerable also worthy of "protections" that he would force the plural Holdens to abide by?

Peter (no relation to Joan) Holden

\*\* Apt. industry experts estimate that 30% or rental units in apt. buildings are at market rate. This figure would prove high for small buildings, where typically tenants remain much longer, therefore pay far less than 'market.'

#### Thanks!

Thank you for the wonderful write-up of the Horace Mann Middle School mural featured in the July issue of the New Mission News. It's been a wonderful project. I'm sure the kids and their families will get a big kick out of seeing themselves in your paper as well.

Thanks again!

Josef Norris

#### Dynamic duo

Editor:

What a delightful issue! "The Dish." written by Jane Dixon, is my personal favorite column and "Stepping Out" by Sonny Smith was such a nice complement to The Dish. It makes me remember when reading newspapers was a moving experience, and had columns which could be taken to heart, like the days of Herb Caen. Keep up the good work; I love the new feel of the paper.

Alice B., longtime Mission resident

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**Richard Pitt** 

#### Hormone Replacement Therapy

mong the most common medical treatments being given today are forms of hormone replacement therapy for women going through and after menopause. One of the most important reasons for this treatment is the prevention of osteoporosis, a deterioration in the quality and strength of bones due to hormonal changes during this time. Another reason for advocating this therapy is the prevention of heart disease. The therapy has become so popular now that doctors often advocate it without any clinical reasons to do so, merely as a preventative treatment.

However, a recent report has challenged the assumptions of its effect on prevention of heart disease, as reported in the San Francisco Chronicle on July 24th. In fact, the report said that for women who already have heart disease, and for a small number of healthy women, the treatment might actually increase the risk of stroke or heart attack. The newspaper article stated that another large study would be completed by 2005 that will track 27,000 women receiving either hormone therapy or placebo.

The use of hormone therapy has always been controversial, and some studies have shown that it can increase the risk of breast cancer. Also, the evidence supporting its use in osteoporosis is conflicting. Some studies have shown that in order for bone densities to be increased, hormones have to be given for up to 10 years, and that once they are discontinued, the bone density levels decline to the same

level as those of women who do not take hormones (New England Journal of Medicine, 14 Oct 1993).

Another concern widely written about today is the use of synthetic hormones instead of more "natural" forms of estrogen and progesterone, the hormones used in the therapy. A new book by Christine Northrop discusses this in detail and is well worth reading if you are considering this therapy. It will give you the information you need to know to discuss the topic with your doctor.

Taking hormones for a short period of time for severe symptoms of menopause such as hot flashes, emotional swings, and night sweats can be effective. However, alternative therapies such as homeopathy and acupuncture can also effectively treat these symptoms, as well as other issues such as bone density and one's overall health through this period. To prevent bone loss, other therapies such as nutritional supplementation with emphasis on minerals such as calcium, magnesium and zinc should be considered. Calcium supplements generally should not be taken alone as they can leach out other minerals, especially magnesium.

People have accused medicine of making menopause into a disease, whereas many women go through this period without much problem and therefore probably don't need to take anything for it. For those who do suffer acute symptoms of menopause, it is good to look at all the options available.



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# Pet of the month

I'm Gretchen, a real cutie with a fabulous smile. I'm a 1-year-old German Shepherd mix waiting for adoption at the San Francisco SPCA. I know basic commands and I've been taking training classes to polish my obedience skills. I'm perfecting my "stays" and "comes," practicing to walk nicely on leash and getting my doggie manners down pat. Best of all, I'm a huge people fan—I love everyone I meet. (I. don't like all dogs, but I enjoy playing with certain canine friends). I love hiking, playing fetch and romping on the beach

In other words, I need plenty of exercise. All dogs do. Without it, we get bored and frustrated, and that leads to behavior problems. Walks are not enough exercise for dogs. Of course, we like to get out and sniff around. But exercise means exertion. We need to play high-energy games, like fetch or Frisbee. And we need regular offleash exercise.

I also enjoy Agility, and I'm really good at it, if I do say so myself. Agility is the fastest growing dog sport in the country, and it's lots of fun. We run through an obstacle course of ramps, tunnels, teetertotters and jumps. It's a super combination of exercise, mental stimulation, and confidence-building.

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The Phoenix is a stylish but not too stylish pub.

#### Everybody has a good time at Phoenix

New Valencia Street pub offers pleasing fare for lunch or dinner

By Jane Anne Doherty

aving trouble keeping up with the comings and goings of Mission eateries and water holes? Same here. So we checked out Phoenix on Valencia near 19th recently and have quite a bit to report.

First, it is owned and operated by the same powers who have Liberties. And if you know Liberties, you'll not be surprised when you hear lots of Irish accents on both sides of the bar. Indeed, it has much of the same feeling as Liberties—a good Irish Pub. That translates to two predominant offerings: great brews and a fine selection of foods, featuring a Good Irish Potato. ("A good Irish potada" is actually one word if you're Irish—Like "Damn Yankee" is one word if you're from the South.)

The establishment is open every day from "half-ten" (10:30 am) until regular closing at two am. The kitchen operates during the whole day, giving those of us who don't do the nine to five thing a chance to have a meal whenever it suits.

As for drink, the beers and ales in bottles or on tap are plentiful. Want a "shandy'? No problem, coming right up. There is also a well-priced selection of wine by the glass or bottle and the full range of spirits. Further, Phoenix offers a number of specialty cocktails like the Martini Mudslide (Vanilla Stoli Vodka, Bailey's Irish Cream, Kahlua and cream.)

What's not to like about that? Alternatively, you could try the Malibu Breeze with Meyer's Coconut Rum, pineapple and cranberry juices over ice. There are no desserts on the menu, but what a fine substitute these concoctions provide. Priced at \$5.50 or \$6.00, they give your sweet tooth a bargain bang.

The menu is well thought out and has something for everyone. Lunch is only slightly different from dinner, and since we've sampled both, here's an idea of all the offerings.

The appetizers are a delight, and several are more than enough for two. Take the potato nachos (Macho Nachos?) for instance: a platter laden with steak fries, topped with melted cheddar, black beans, fresh salsa, sour cream and guacamole. The Buttermilk-Battered Onion Rings are the real deal and come with a thick aioli for dipping.

One late afternoon we made a small meal of the Honey Glazed Sesame Shrimp, which come already peeled on a bed of excellent mixed greens and sauced with a sweet ginger soy blend. It's the rare Irishman who knows his fresh greens, and the whole plate was so satisfying that to eat more was unthinkable. The potato shows up in other appetizer choices: French fries with either garlic and cilantro, fresh Parmesan, Cajun seasoning, or homemade curry toppings. The range of prices on these and all the appetizers is \$5.00 to \$7.50.

Entrees include a number of sand-wiches for lunch—burgers, grilled chicken, and Philly cheese steaks, all of which are accompanied by Twice Fried Potatoes. There are a couple of salads, with or without grilled chicken. Every day Phoenix offers a pasta special and possibly another changing special.

For dinner entrees, the choices include several beef selections. You might want to try the New York sirloin with (no Blarney) yet another preparation of the good Irish potato. They call it Fondant Potatoes, and the waitress said it was potatoes cooked in a rich reduction of stock. There are Barbequed baby back ribs, a roast pork loin with grilled apple and red onion marmalade, and several fish selections. These include, but aren't necessarily limited to, roasted salmon with wild mushroom and tomato risotto and tempura-battered cod filet.

Everybody has a good time at Phoenix—the Pub experience often appeals to the younger folks, and sometimes it gets loud. The music is carefully chosen, but when the place is full, don't expect to hear much music or to have an intimate chat. However, because of the hours of operation, should you want a quiet quaff or two at Phoenix, go at an off time. You'll be having a warm welcome and a fine time whenever you get to Phoenix.

Phoenix is located at 811 Valencia Street near 20th, is wheelchair accessible, and accepts reservations and credit cards. Private parties are available; parking is usually available at 21st and Bartlett Parking. The phone number is 415.695.1811.



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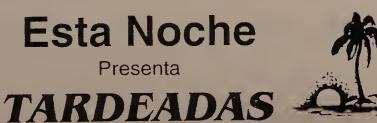
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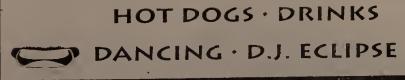


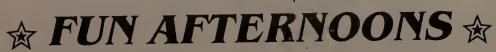


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#### The Big Red One

ome questions are answered but others are raised about the mysterious Red Man at the Red Man Show, a mixed-media exhibit at the newly opened Back Room Gallery. The rubicund one, also known as Prince Mata Siete (Killer of Seven) and Prince Charm Patel, has worked his curious spell on Mission residents for decades. This will be the first art exhibition in which he is the thematic center, but perhaps not the last. The Red Man mystique has legs. The show runs through August 20.

Next month the Gallery hosts the 4

sculptures by Chris Corales, Christopher Garret, Chris Johanson and Chris Lindig. There will be an opening reception on August 24th at 8 pm.

Chris Show: paintings, drawings and

The opening of this new gallery shows that the community still has plenty of spunk and creative spark in the dawn of the post dot-com era, which, luckily for us, appears to be Red Man friendly.

The Back Room Gallery is located, appropriately, in the back room of Adobe Books at 3166 16th Street and is open 10-12 daily.

#### ep Medical Costs Down

ness and education. After examining the research Dr. R. Wood Massi, chairperson of the Older Adults Department, wanted a new course to address the health needs of the older adult population. The format of "Medical Options", a supportive-expressive environment, is based on the work of Dr. David Spiegel of Stanford University's School of Medicine. Dr. Spiegel demonstrated that working with women with terminal disease in a supportive therapeutic environment not only improved the quality of life, but significantly enhanced survival time.

"Medical Options": empowers adults to expand their knowledge of medical options, enables them to find internal motivational drives to maintain their self-care programs, encourages them to develop an investigative reporter's instinct for finding credible news sources and to synthesize divergent perspectives, mobilizes them to participate in assertive communication with all their health professionals, and introduces them, through hands-on interactions with experts, to alternative medical options validated by scientific research but still steeped in myth.

#### Better Informed Older Adults Keep

recent study conducted by the National Institute of Aging shows that older Americans are enjoying more vigorous old age. Kenneth G. Manton, Duke University researcher and co-author of the study, says, "Improved medical care, diet, exercise and public health awareness in recent decades have all contributed to a more vigorous and healthy old age."

"Older Americans," explains Manton, "now are better educated, take better care of themselves, and are taking advantage of new medical knowledge about how to stay healthy."

The study's statistics demonstrate how healthier lifestyles translate into big savings for the American public. In one example, the study reports: "The reduction in the rate of elderly disability saved the Medicare fund about 3.7 billion in 1999 alone, and could extend the solvency of that fund well past the middle of this century."

City College of San Francisco's new course, "Medical Options," picks up on this forward trend in public health aware-

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#### **Mentors** needed

If you have some free time on your hands and would like to give something back to the community, Huckleberry Youth Programs is now recruiting MENTORS for at-risk youth. The Mentor Program is a new component of the Community Assessment and Referral Center (CARC), a program at the center of San Francisco's efforts to reform the juvenile justice system. CARC is a citywide juvenile justice diversion project

The Prisoners' Literacy Project

The future and the present can be bleak for America's penitentiary prisoners without access to books that educate and broaden worldviews. But the volunteers at Prisoners' Literacy Project (P.L.P.) are making a positive impact on prisoners' lives by distributing books to prisoners across the country. P.L.P. helps prisoners help themselves. P.L.P. is an all-volunteer, non-hierarchical (anarchist), grassroots project. The Project has been ongoing for over ten years, and a group has been meeting in the Mission District for the past six years.

The Project's books are free to any and all prisoners. This is the only way to get books into prisons, because individuals can't send in books themselves. Only books sent from publishers or distributors are allowed into the prisons. Funding for PLLP comes from grants and donations

that provides a single point of entry for assessment, service integration, referral, case management and crisis intervention for youths who have been arrested. The CARC Mentor Program is designed to prevent at-risk youth, age 11-16, from further involvement with the juvenile justice system by creating positive relationships with caring adults. GET INVOLVED - IT'S FUN!!! For more information about the program, please call Brooke Nagle at (415) 567.8078.

P.L.P. needs more volunteers to help answer prisoners' requests for books, and to select and package books for shipping. People gather every Wednesday evening from 7 - 9:30 p.m. and work together in a sociable environment. Volunteers need not make a commitment to help; they can come by any Wednesday evening they have available. P.L.P. meets at a home near 23rd and Shotwell in the Mission. If you'd like to come by, please call Penelope at 826-1584 for the address.

Donate books for prisoners by bringing books in good condition to Bound Together Books at 1369 Haight Street near Masonic, but call ahead first at 431-8355, particularly if you need a receipt. The most requested books by prisoners are paperback dictionaries. There is also great interest in Black studies, La Raza, and basic education books.



#### Cable competitor's nice start

CN, a cable, phone and high-speed Internet service-provider challenging AT&T's virtual monopoly in the Bay Area entered the market in a community spirit. On July 14, RCN sponsored a youth festival at the Mission Boys' and Girls' Club, featuring mariachis, carnival games and food. The festival was attended by hundreds of rambunctious kids, all of

whom seemed to be wearing balloon hats, and their parents. For every person signing up with RCN at the event, the company also made a donation to the Boys' and Girls' Club. The Mission is the first San Francisco neighborhood to be offered RCN's package of services. Beginning in August, RCN will include a digital tier called Canales ñ with nine Spanish language channels.





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#### Month of Photography IV

he Mission Cultural Center's Month of Photography IV, running August 3-30, will feature three intriguing documentary collections.

The photo of Colonel Pantcón, above, is one in a series by Manuel Peñafiel of the last survivors of Emiliano Zapata's army. The photographs were taken during the making of the film The Last Zapatistas: Forgotten Heroes. On August 30 at 7 pm the film, which has received an enthusiastic reception throughout Mexico, will have its US premier at the Center.

Also part of the show are photos taken

in rural El Salvador following the earthquake that devastated the country in January. Eighty per cent of the proceeds will go to the Share Foundation/ El Salvador to support relief efforts in the rural areas of El Salvador.

A third documentary series by Jeffery Blankfort on the United Farm Workers, which he began in 1971, will also be on display.

The opening reception will be held on August 10 from 7 to 9 pm at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street. Admission is \$3.



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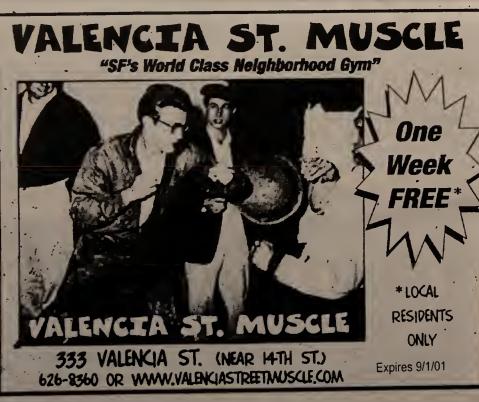
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# Recycling San Francisco

#### It's never too late for spring cleaning

by Maria T. Baird, Public Outreach Manager, San Francisco Solid **Waste Management Program** 

ummer's already here but a lot of us, like San Francisco resident and nursing student Gillian Droeger, still haven't quite finished spring cleaning.

"I started cleaning and discovered boxes of magazines from about 1978. Nobody's read them, and they're covered with 2 inches of dust," Droeger said with a laugh. "Okay, I can't move around this part of the garage anymore: it's time to make a trip!"

One of the recycling trips she makes is to the Household Hazardous WasteCollection center on Tunnel Road near 3Com Park. She's been going there for years to drop off used motor oil from her car. Droeger derives a lot of satisfaction from doing her own auto maintenance. "Oil changes, hoses and clamps --it's so easy, it makes no sense to pay someone \$70 or \$80 to do it," she said.

But there's now an easier way for Gillian Droeger and other "do it yourselfers" to get used motor oil, oil filters, car batteries, and even household latex paint removed from their homes. The City of San Francisco's Solid Waste Management Program now offers free pickup of those materials at the doorstep.

There are a few simple rules. Motor oil must be poured into a secure plastic container, and drained oil filters must be put into a sealed, leak-proof plastic bag. There's a limit of five gallons of oil, and seven gallons of latex paint per pickup. Just call for an appointment and an operator will give you instructions.

It's a winning proposition for residents and for the environment, because the used motor oil and latex paint gets recycled instead of going into the trash-or into our precious water. One gallon of motor oil poured down a drain can pollute up to one million gallons of water in our creeks, the bay or the ocean, so you can see why recycling these materials is so important. And now it is easier than ever!!

When you're cleaning out your

garage, you may find leftover bug spray, maybe darkroom chemicals from that photo class, or some old asbestos tiles. What should you do with all that type of household waste - those cleaners, pesticides and solvents?

For safety and environmental reasons, it's against the law to dispose of these hazardous wastes in your garbage can or drains. For a fee of \$35, the City will pick up such materials, by appointment, or you can drop them off for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Yes, the drive-through collection service is absolutely free for San Francisco residents with proof of residency, such as a utility bill or driver's license. And 70 per cent of those materials can be recycled.

You don't even have to leave your car. Just make sure your materials are in tightly lidded containers that are clearly labeled. Put the hazardous materials in a sturdy box, lined with newspaper. Asbestos must be wrapped in the equivalent of four heavy garbage bags, and you can't bring more than 30 pounds per bag.

For seniors or the disabled, it can be difficult to make the trip to a drop-off site. That's why pickup of household hazardous waste is free for those residents. Pickup is by appointment, so plan ahead.

Like Gillian Droeger, Nancy Tucker has made the trip from her home to the hazardous materials collection site. She recently brought in several gallons of paint left over from when she repainted her home. Now she says she may take advantage of the City's new free pickup program. And, like most of us, she's collected old cleaning chemicals, batteries and some fluorescent lamps over the years, so she's going to pay the \$35 fee to have everything conveniently picked up at her

It's never too late for spring cleaning!

To set an appointment for any of these pickup services, call 1-800-449-7587. The Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is located on Tunnel Avenue off the 3Com Park exit from southbound Highway 101. It is open Thursday-Saturday, 8 AM to 4 PM. For more information call 554-3400.



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# Library Lady



#### Mission Branch

#### Dear Library Lady,

Summer is almost over and I haven't gotten enough summer reading in yet. Any suggestions for interesting

Want to read more

#### Dear Read More:

At the library we have all kinds of interesting books that we would love to share with you or anyone else who wants to read. Let me tell you about a few – and of course you're more than welcome to come in and ask for other recommendations!

Vermeer, the 17th century Dutch artist, is hot these days. There's a new biography called <u>Vermeer: a View of Delft</u>, by Anthony Bailey. It presents a compelling portrait of Vermeer's life and character, as well as the world – very different from our own – that he lived in.

Another book based on the life of Vermeer, as seen through the eyes of a young maid in his household, is <u>Girl with a Pearl Earring</u>, by Tracy Chevalier. This work of historical fiction is so gripping that Library Lady almost missed her BART stop!

Yet another Vermeer-themed book is Girl in Hyacinth Blue, by Susan Vreeland. This one starts in the present and continues through time. It concerns a painting that may or may not be by Vermeer.

If you're interested in Asian cultures, may I recommend Memoirs of a Geisha, by Arthur Golden? The story of the life of a Japanese geisha, from early childhood to old age, it is a truly fascinating portrait.

Another really great book is <u>Love in</u> the <u>Time of Cholera</u> by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The old master is at his humor-

ous, touching best with this tale of unrequited love. If you didn't read it when it first came out, do yourself a favor and read it this summer!

And what would summer reading be without some good trash! Christopher Moore writes some of the funniest horror stories around. Bloodsucking Fiends: a Love Story concerns an unwilling vampire who has to take the midnight managerial job at the Marina Safeway to make ends meet. Practical Demonkeeping's monster Catch just wants to snack on a few humans from time to time until he encounters the eccentric denizens of small town Pine Grove, California. Island of the Sequined Love Nun pits pilot Tucker Case and a talking bat against a couple of South Pacific missionaries gone astray.

If you enjoy old Ed Wood movies, you might also like a couple of books by ex-Berserkeley rocker Greg Kihn. Horror Show's Landis Woodley is making a film called *Cadaver* using real bodies. Landis returns in Big Rock Beat to film a summer of love rock epic.

Special Programs in August for kids of all ages at the Mission Library include:

Dan Chan the Balloon Man – Balloon sculptures include hats, animals and flowers. Wednesday, August 1, at 2:00 p.m.

Summer Reading Party – Come celebrate the end of the Summer Reading Club with refreshments. Wednesday, August 8 at 3:00 p.m.

See you at the library!

The Library Lady

You can send a question directly to Library Lady, c/o The New Mission News, 3288 21ST Street #202, San Francisco, CA 94110, or feel free to email her at Librarylady@sfpl.lib.ca.us

# JYS

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If you would like to attend the orientation or have any questions please contact Tyrell Jackson at (415) 782-6229.

This project was funded by the Center for the Health Professions, University of California San Francisco, through grants from The California Endowment and the California HealthCare Foundation and from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, as well as through the Caregiver Training Initiative of the San Francisco Private Industry Council

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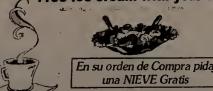
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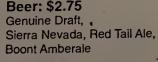


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policy

mineral need of mind fed by sound and leftover light can one be brought back from such a long separation many of these beings will have to be restricted as survival is the rule we all finally play by and a neglected spirit can never be fully reclaimed he is one of us but accomodations are limited and the policy of the earth regarding the vulnerable is well known

Rick London

Fragment for J.R.

Blood comes out the mouth and runs down the hill. The sky

loves this blood in body open to touch. The blood goes away

quickly, drains off or becomes air. More injury is needed. The earth needs

it, to fathom its stresses/ to know the time when it's safe to grow

Rick London

#### A Perponderance of Nuts

I look around me And all that I see Are nuts and nuts And more nuts and me. They think I'm a nut, too But I'm not, you see.

I never was one

And I never could be.

Above me is pressing A big fat Brazil Below me a pecan Is not lying still. A trill from a filbert Seeps through on my right Where a walnut and a cashew Are kissing goodnight.

I don't like the almond That's sitting in front of me. She has designs on The nut to the left of me. Way to much oil, I'm gagging on salt. Whoever's behind me, I think his name's Walt.

For truly I tell you I'd rather be butter. A peanut or seed Just doesn't belong here So bring on the end 'Cause I've nothing to fear, Except for a nut Coming anymore near.

Eat me up fast And don't let me be last. Not that this party has not been a blast But I miss my partner And I miss my shell And I'm just a bear In this nut crazy hell. James Daniel



# Round World Music Review

Robert Leaver

#### Songs from the Village

Before the arrival of electric instruments in West Africa, an acoustic version of popular music developed which was called "palm wine music." Baba Ken Okulolo and the Nigerian Brothers have recorded a superb record of this melodic and rhythmic music called Songs from the Village. Played on acoustic guitars, percussion and drums, the vocals are sweet as honey, layered in rich harmonies. Guitars pluck out lovely melodies while drums, especially the talking drum, drive these unhurried tunes that are sung mostly in Yoruba with a bit of English.

It's essentially an "unplugged" version of the Bay Area's West African Highlife Band led by Ken Okulolo. Well recorded and mixed, this CD showcases these veteran musicians and their joyful interpretation of a deep-rooted tradition. They will be performing at the Elbo Room on Friday, August 31.

One of Cuba's most acclaimed musicians, pianist Gonzalo Rubalcaba, is featured on two excellent new recordings. He co-produced and performs on bassist Charlie Haden's Nocturnes, along with Ignacio Berroa on drums/percussion and featuring Joe Lovano and David Sanchez

on saxophone as well as violinist Federico Britos Ruiz. This unique venture presents instrumental versions of Cuban and Mexican boleros with exquisite elegance.

All the musical elements combine in a sadly sweet lyricism, as is appropriate for this slow, romantic material. Rubalcaba's rendering of the Armando Manzanero song "El Ciego" will make you hum along and gasp silently. Smoky sax voicing, weeping violin, cantering bongos, and cymbals sloshing like softly falling rain make Nocturnes a sublime record that shall remain timeless.

Rubalcaba's ninth record for the prestigious Blue Note jazz label is called Supernova and shows this artist is only improving with age. This trio performance includes Carlos Henriquez on acoustic bass and Ignacio Berroa on drums, joined on two cuts by congas and timbales. Although he is known for his stunning technique, dizzying speed, and improvisational genius, he shows more lyrical subtlety on this outing.

His version of "Manicero" (Peanut Vendor) starts out familiar, but he quickly turns it inside out. Often accused of playing "too many notes," Rubalcaba has

matured to the point where he is content to play a bit less, using more open space in his voicing. A child prodigy who comes from a long line of musicians, he was one of the first contemporary Cuban musicians to take up residence outside of Cuba yet

With the help of Charlie Haden he entered into the hallowed sanctuaries of the jazz world, and had the courage to perform in New York and Miami (behind bullet-proof glass) in spite of the death threats from the right wing Cuban-American community. He now resides in Coral Gables, Florida.

maintain his Cuban citizenship.

Elsewhere, in the Southern Hemisphere, the new Putumayo presents Colombia is a fun collection that does justice to the diverse range of musical styles in that much-maligned country. Obvious artists such as Salsa hero Joe Arroyo, Cumbia stalwarts La Sonora Dinamita and Afro-Colombian legend Toto La Momposina are included along with lesser-known artists. Colombia's geography and history give them a unique culture that ranges from the strong Afro-Caribbean presence on the coast to the indigenous legacy of the countryside and the European heritage in the cities.

One may be surprised to hear a clarinet soar over the brass instruments as the unmistakable rhythm of a Cumbia scrapes forward. And kudos have to be given to Arroyo, Fruko, and the Latin Brothers for keeping Salsa alive in the '80s when the Salsa from New York became weak and flaccid. Overall, this collection swings

from start to finish and even the hard core Latin music fan should discover something new here.

"Putumayo presents Likewise, Mexico" is a well sequenced and researched collection that includes many lesser-known artists. Most of the groups are smaller ensembles, which play stringed instruments in various regional styles. They stretch the definition of Mexico to include Los Angeles, but that is fair enough considering that a little over 100 years ago California was simply the northern part of Mexico. Following on the heels of their solid collections of music from Puerto Rico and Cuba, Putumayo deserves credit for their well-done collections of Latin music.

Elbo Room Salsa Calendar for Thursdays in August:

Aug. 2- Azabache Salsa \$6

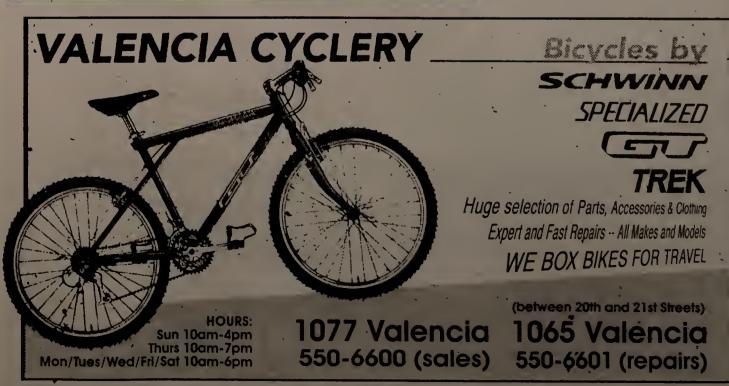
Aug. 9- Jesús Diaz & QBA Cuban Salsa \$6

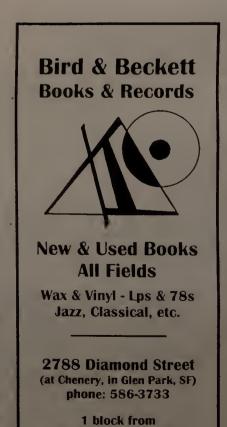
Aug. 16-Fito Reinoso & Ritmo y Armonia CD release party – Cuban Salsa \$6

Aug. 23- Charanzón Salsa & Charnga \$6

Aug. 30 - Mazacote Salsa \$6

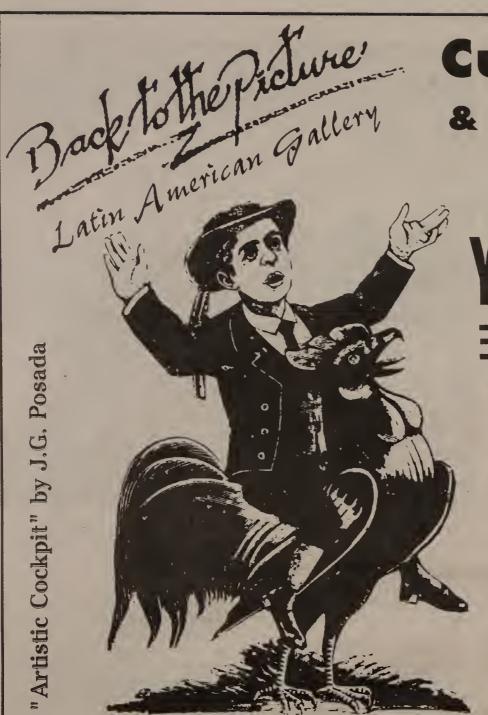






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